

# Labour warns of debt trap for families

## Lawson says interest rates will rise if necessary

- The average British family is £1,700 in debt and seasonal spending will push that higher, Labour said yesterday
- The party's Treasury spokesman said high interest rates on credit cards were fuelling a family debt crisis
- The Chancellor said he would raise interest rates again if that were necessary to control inflation
- Mr Lawson said the economy was slowing down as he wished, largely due to the end of the house price boom

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

As Mr Gordon Brown, Labour's Treasury spokesman, issued a warning yesterday that high interest rates on credit cards were fuelling a huge increase in family debts, Mr Nigel Lawson responded that he would continue increasing interest rates if it proved necessary to counter inflation.

With high street trade picking up sharply over the pre-Christmas weekend, Mr Brown said that the average family was now £1,700 in debt, excluding mortgage, and that many families would spend £400 on their Christmas.

He called for the Government to issue "league tables" warning shoppers of the true interest rates they would be paying as they used their credit cards to purchase Christmas presents to be paid for long after.

Thousands of families, he said, would face debt misery in 1989 as they repaid the Christmas bills.

Mr Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, gave a warning that if it proved necessary in the interests of containing inflation he would again raise

the basic interest rates, which govern the terms offered by high street traders and credit card companies.

Speaking on BBC Television's *Money Programme* in his first interview before entering Budget, Mr Lawson said: "So far all the signs are that the economy is slowing down in just the way that I had hoped it would."

"The rate of growth has slowed down a bit, and the

Monday Pages...12, 13  
Lawson hope...21

housing boom which had been a key problem in the economy, with something like three quarters of total personal borrowing being on mortgages — that has taken a pronounced turn down."

But Mr Lawson added: "I can assure you that monetary policy will be kept as tight as is necessary, to keep inflation under control, and whenever it is necessary to raise interest rates I will raise interest rates."

Mr Brown published a list of the true APR (annual percentage rate) charged by a number of the leading high street lenders for their "household credit" and by the credit card companies. He promised that Labour would do so until the Government adopted the practice.

Among credit card companies, figures listed by Mr Brown ranged from 19.9-20.2 per cent for Visa and Prosper Visa card holders, through 23.1 per cent for Leeds Permanent Visa to 26.8-27.2 per cent for Barclays Visa.

Others included Chase Manhattan Visa (19.9-20.2), Halifax Visa (20.9-21.7), Nat West Access (25.3), Midland Access (26.8) and Lloyds Access (26.8). Where two figures are quoted the lower figure refers to normal purchases, the higher figure to cash advances.

Annual percentage interest rates on cards issued by leading high street store groups in the list ranged from 19.5 per cent for John Lewis's to 29.0-32.9 per cent for Storehouse. Others included Debenhams (32.1-35.3), Dixons (33.7-38.4), Marks &

Spencer (34.5), Next (29.8) and Rumbelows (32.9). Here the lower figure refers to direct debits, the higher one normally to a regular cash payment.

The Opposition has consistently attacked the Chancellor for creating an unsustainable consumer credit boom based on credit which is fuelling Britain's balance of payments deficit of nearly £13 billion a year.

Mr Brown's survey, conducted as the Christmas shopping trade took off in the past few days after a steadier than usual start this year, found that in the past two months some storecards had increased their rates by as much as 8 per cent.

Mr Brown said yesterday: "This new list demonstrates the urgent need for Government action to protect consumers from widely varying interest rates."

The Christian research group, the Jubilee Centre, is to mount a campaign on family debt in the new year after studies indicating a severe effect on low income families.

The centre's studies have found that citizens' advice bureaux receive half a million inquiries on debt in a year.

The Government has resisted calls for regular publication of interest rate league tables showing the rates charged by credit card companies.

Mr Peter Lilley, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, has said that 85 per cent of the debt of British families is on their mortgages and that only 5 per cent is represented by credit cards.

High interest rates on storecards do not affect the vast majority of card holders, who use them for convenience, and pay off the balance before any interest is incurred, retailers said yesterday (David Smith writes).

Marks & Spencer, with 15 per cent of sales on its own charge card, said that bad debt problems arose from insufficient vetting of card applicants.

The rates of interest charged on Access and Barclaycard are currently the subject of an investigation by the Monopolies Commission, but that investigation does not include storecards.

## TV evidence speed-up in cases of child abuse

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The Government is to speed up the legal reform allowing children under 14 to give evidence by closed circuit television in crown court cases involving physical or sexual abuse.

Law officers have been disturbed at the number of child abuse trials which are breaking down because children cannot face the ordeal of coming face to face with their alleged abusers.

The Home Office is expected to announce today that children will be able to give evidence over closed circuit television from January 5,

several months sooner than expected when provision was made for the reform in the 1988 Criminal Justice Act.

The Commons will today debate child cruelty on a private member's motion to be introduced by Mr Geoffrey Dickens, Conservative MP for Littleborough and Saddleworth, which is designed to draw attention to the package of deterrent measures now arrayed against the potential child-abuser. He will ask the Home Office to sponsor late night television advertising to bring home to potential

Continued on page 20, col 1

## Spitak buries its dead



A grieving Armenian carrying a coffin for an earthquake victim in Spitak, now deserted by everyone except rescue teams. The first stage of the relief effort, which concentrated on finding survivors, has ended, the Soviet authorities have announced (Mary Dejevsky writes). Rebuilding and repairing devastated areas is to begin.

Assurances were given last week that rescue work would continue for another ten days, but the authorities are now persuading women, children and elderly people to leave the region while rebuilding takes place. A sharp drop in temperatures has been forecast.

Rebuilding starts, page 7  
Armenia concert, page 20

## More cash pledged to ease London transport

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, yesterday promised increased investment in London's transport and hinted at the possibility of new underground rail lines.

He also acknowledged that the Government could be "driven" to making car owners pay for using London's roads though he emphasized that it was a "deeply unattractive prospect".

Interviewed on BBC radio's *The World This Week* about the capital's transport crisis, which was recently highlighted in a series in *The Times*, Mr Channon admitted that the problem of congestion and overcrowding was "very serious indeed".

He said there was already a vast investment programme underway to make up for past neglect.

"People have yet to feel the effect of it, this enormous investment programme which

is going on and which will clearly have to increase."

One million pounds a day was being spent on London Regional Transport and £1 billion over the next five years on Network South East. These were vast sums. "They will get larger."

Most of the extra money would be spent on the public sector, particularly on the

Letters...11

Underground and on rail. He wanted to increase the use of rail over car. Mr Channon said the results of the Central London Rail Study, which he commissioned early this year, would be unveiled in the next few weeks and would include "ambitious proposals" for improving rail transport.

This study has examined the possibility of new Underground lines and an underground British Rail link across London. Asked about the

feasibility of new Underground lines, Mr Channon said that, except in one or two locations in the capital, "there's no technical reasons why they can't be built". Such a study had never been undertaken before "and I think you will see that it is very important", he said.

Asked whether the Government would have to introduce measures to discourage private car owners from taking their vehicles into central London, Mr Channon conceded: "We may be driven to that."

However, he said a system of "road pricing" would be deeply unpopular and many people would feel it was unnecessary. It would hurt a lot of people who had to use their cars in the capital for business or other purposes. Mr Channon rejected the idea of establishing a single strategic transport planning authority.

Continued on page 2, col 7

## Anti-Aids campaign 'ineffectual'

The Government's advertising campaign to combat the spread of Aids is ineffectual, according to a leading research psychologist.

Dr Lorraine Sherr, from St Mary's Hospital, London, will tell an experts' meeting, *Aids, Eight Years On*, that advertisements designed to induce

fear of Aids are failing to reach their target.

She will suggest to the British Psychological Society today that a blunderbuss approach to health education on Aids would be better replaced with more narrowly targeted campaigns. They had to be aimed at the risk groups and

convey a message of greater personal relevance.

A comparison of a group of students and a group of high-risk drug users, in London, showed neither groups regarded themselves at risk of acquiring the disease.

Missed target, page 5  
Letters, page 11

## Kremlin moves towards death penalty abolition

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The Soviet Union is set to drop the death penalty for many offences, including embezzlement, kidnapping and most murder, and the sentence of exile is to be abolished.

The changes, which also include the introduction of "genocide" as a criminal offence, are recorded in the draft principles for the new criminal code — *Fundamentals of Criminal Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics* — which were published at the weekend.

The draft offers the first thorough overhaul of the Soviet judicial system for 30 years and follows a year of intense discussion at lawyers' committees and in the press about what form the new criminal code should

take. The death penalty is to be retained for treason, espionage, terrorism, subversion and particularly heinous cases of premeditated murder and the rape of juveniles.

Women, juveniles under the age of 18, and men above the age of 60 will be exempt.

The guidelines make it clear that the eventual abolition of the death penalty is envisaged. But, as in Britain, a substantial body of opinion believes that it should be retained and applied, if anything, more widely. On Saturday, the television news showed an Armenian earthquake victim arguing passionately that looters in the disaster zone should be shot on sight.

While the sentence of exile will no longer be available to Soviet courts,

the guidelines provide for "restrictions" to be imposed on individuals' freedom which would require them to work in a specified area under supervision.

The removal from the criminal code of the word exile, however, which has connotations going far back into Tsarist times, marks a psychological break with the past which many will welcome.

Another significant change is that criminals who have completed their sentence will no longer be subject to restrictions on where they live and work, and will have all their civic rights restored.

In line with the official encouragement of co-operatives to provide goods and services, co-operative

property is given legal protection on a par with state property. There is no mention, however, of private property. The Popular Front organizations in the Baltic states had campaigned to have private ownership recognized as a constitutionally valid form of ownership, but this was ruled out by Moscow.

The most severe sentence besides the death penalty provided for under the new guidelines is 15 years' imprisonment. It will apply to many offences which previously carried the death penalty, including organized crime, large-scale embezzlement of state or public property, bribe-taking, hijacking which results in death, war crimes, and the new crime of genocide. Continued on page 20, col 3

## Europe is given terror warning

From Christopher Walker  
Tunis

The security forces in a number of European countries, including Britain, have been placed on alert before Christmas after warnings from the Palestine Liberation Organization that either Israeli agents or Palestinian extremists may launch terrorist attacks designed to undermine the new dialogue between the United States and the PLO.

The warnings have been communicated to both the US and the main European embassies here by senior PLO officials who claim to have intercepted information about Jewish undercover plans.

Western intelligence sources have cautioned their own governments about the threat of violence from Palestinian splinter groups.

Extra security precautions have also been ordered to protect Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman and key archi-

PLO government...6

tect of the peace dialogue, who appeared at a press briefing here over the weekend carrying a machine pistol.

Arab governments are taking seriously the possibility that Israeli commandos may try and upset the present wave of support for the PLO by assassinating Mr Arafat.

Mr Yasser Abdel-Rabbo, the leader of the PLO delegation which met the US diplomats, told *The Times* that he had informed them officially of specific evidence provided earlier to European embassies that Mossad, the Israeli secret service, was planning terrorist attacks in Western Europe, which they would then try to blame on the PLO.

A senior Nato security source confirmed that such warnings had been transmitted to the British Government, amongst others, but said that it was difficult to assess the extent of the threat. "There is no doubt that there are people on both sides so against this process that they would go to any lengths to stop it," he said.

According to Western intelligence officials, Mossad does have "dirty tricks" squads who would be capable of posing as Arab terrorists. But the officials believe that any such crude attempt to try and sully the PLO's new image would stand a high risk of back-firing, to Israel's grave diplomatic disadvantage.

The officials fear that Palestinian radicals, notably those led by the fanatical Abu Nidal, may also try to launch a spectacular terrorist outrage designed to force the US to break off the talks, which were begun on condition the PLO renounced terrorism.

## CHRISTMAS with THE TIMES

### A pagan festival?



● Next Saturday a special Christmas edition of the *Sunday Times Magazine* will be published with *The Times*. In it, Anthony Burgess (above) asks whether Christmas is still a pagan festival, and examines the state of Christianity.

● In the same issue, eminent scholars, including the Bishop of Durham and Donald Cupitt, reflect on Jesus as myth, magician... and social worker.

● With *Hawksmoor* and *Chatterton*, Peter Ackroyd became one of Britain's foremost young novelists. *First Light*, his latest book, is both strange and comic. It will be among the most discussed novels of the year. Read it in six extracts in *The Times* next week, starting on Boxing Day — when *The Times* will be the only quality newspaper to publish.

● *The Times* has many other treats in store this Christmas. To be sure of your copies over the holiday, place an order with your newsagent today.

WIN £68,000

### Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

● Saturday's £8,000 weekly prize was not claimed, so the Portfolio Accumulator rises to £68,000. There is also today's £4,000 daily prize to be won. Prices: page 25



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## INSIDE British tank firm favoured

The purchase of 600 British-built Challenger 2 tanks costing £1.4 billion is expected to be approved by the Cabinet's overseas and defence committee today following a fierce Whitehall battle against its American rival, the M1A1 Abrams. Some 10,000 jobs at Vickers Defence Systems of Leeds, Britain's sole tank manufacturer, would have been at risk had the American option been favoured. Page 2

## GrandMet bid

Grand Metropolitan awaited the outcome last night of a meeting in the US, at which Pillsbury would decide whether to end the \$5.5 billion (£3 billion) takeover battle launched by GrandMet. Page 21

## Bank fears

Third world debt has grown to \$1,300 billion (£718 billion) but there is no end in sight to the crisis over repayments, the World Bank admitted. Page 21

## Swedes jeered

Sweden, defeated by West Germany in the final of the Davis Cup in Gothenburg, controversially forfeited the fifth rubber yesterday amid jeers. Pages 28, 32

## Exam results

Degrees awarded by London University are published today. Page 27

## INDEX

Home News	2, 3, 5
Overseas	6, 7
Business	21-25
Sport	27-32
Arts	18
Births, marriages, deaths	15
Chess	2
City Diary	23
Court & social	14
Crosswords	18, 20
Diary	10
Entertainment	10
Features	6, 10, 12, 13
Information	18
Law Report	11
Leading articles	11
Letters	15
Obituary	14
On This Day	10
Religion	14
Science Report	15
TV & Radio	15
Weather	20

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## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Dublin call to Ryan witnesses

Possible witnesses against Patrick Ryan, the former priest, in any criminal trial are being canvassed on whether they would be prepared to give evidence in a case brought before an Irish court in Dublin.

No decision has yet been taken by the Government on whether to take up the suggestion by Mr John Murray, the Irish Attorney General, last week that the British authorities should take their case against Mr Ryan to the Irish courts.

Mr Murray's suggestion, made as he turned down a British request for extradition, met doubts among legal and police sources when it was first raised. One factor in the decision will be the safety of witnesses and their willingness to appear in court.

British witnesses in any case are likely to include Scotland Yard Anti-Terrorist Branch officers, explosives experts and forensic scientists.

## Meningitis cases rise

There has been a "dramatic" rise in the number of reported cases of meningitis in England and Wales this year and the trend is getting worse. The outlook for the new year is gloomy, according to the Meningitis Trust, based at Stroud, Gloucestershire. So far this year there have been 2,706 cases of acute meningitis compared with 2,367 last year, Mr Steve Dayman, trust chairman, said. About 10 per cent of victims have died.

## Fines for seal-killing

People killing seals will face £1,000 fines under new rules to protect the creatures which come into effect today. It is hoped the measures will help restore the seal population around Britain's coastline after the epidemic earlier this year which killed thousands of the animals. The orders will prohibit the killing, injuring or taking of common seals in and around Britain, and provide similar protection for grey seals in England and Wales.

## Water fears denied

People living in Camelford, Cornwall, are demanding government reassurances after tests showed their water supplies contained up to 6,000 times the official safe aluminium content after 20 tonnes of aluminium sulphate was accidentally discharged into water supplies last July. However, South West Water last night denied that most homes would have received water with the highest levels of contamination.

## Karpov's speedy win

Anatoly Karpov has won the first world speed chess championship, although he had to share an \$80,000 purse with Viktor Gavrilov, who tied in a 10-game final series. After the two-day championship match at Mazatlan, Mexico, Karpov was awarded the title because of a better performance during the preliminary round. In the final game, Gavrilov had the white pieces and Karpov set up a Caro-Kann defence. Karpov lost a bishop and gave up in the 38th move after sharp tactical manoeuvres.

## Crossword dates

The qualifying puzzle for *The Times*/Collins Dictionaries 1989 Crossword Championship will be published on January 12, and the eliminator puzzle, should one be necessary, on February 16. There will again be six regional finals: Leeds, Queens Hotel (capacity 300 competitors), March 5; Glasgow, Starika Grosvenor Hotel (150), April 9; Birmingham, Grand Hotel (250), April 30; Bristol, Hilton International (300), May 14; London A, July 1, and London B, July 2, Wembley Hilton (325 each day). The national final will be held at London Hilton, Park Lane, on September 3. Today's puzzle, page 20

## Kinnock says Labour will not form election pact

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday emphatically rejected the idea of his party forming an electoral pact with other opposition parties to defeat the Conservatives.

The Labour leader also spoke of his fundamental objections to proportional representation, though he conspicuously did not rule out the possibility of a Labour government adopting PR if those objections could be overcome.

His recurring theme during a wide-ranging television interview was that Labour had to win the next election through hard slog and greater self-discipline from certain sections of the party with whom he made little attempt to disguise his irritation.

Labour could not win by trying to change electoral rules, or by relying on Conservative mismanagement of the economy, he said during an interview with Brian Walden on London Weekend Television.

He attributed calls for pacts and PR largely to low morale and he condemned the "self-indulgence of defeatism" which was apparent in "small quarters of the party".

Mr Roy Hattersley, the deputy Labour leader, also argues against PR in an article

in *The Guardian* today, but it appears that the two pronouncements will serve merely to fan a growing internal party debate on the issue.

A number of senior Labour figures, including Mr Robin Cook and Dr John Cunningham, Shadow Cabinet members, now favour PR. Mr Cook yesterday welcomed the fact that Mr Kinnock had not "closed the door" on it.

Mr Kinnock said PR delivered disproportionate power to small parties, and cited the example of West Germany's Free Democrats who had barely 7 per cent of the vote but wielded "60 per cent of influence".

He acknowledged that PR was a tempting recourse when faced with the present "extremist" government, and that the debate would continue, but he said it was in any case irrelevant until Labour won overall power under the present electoral system.

Mr Kinnock said there was no single "great dramatic act" which would transform Labour's present standing, which he admitted was not good.

It would be foolish to expect growing economic pessimism to improve Labour's standing. That had to be done through its own efforts.

## Tory MP urges egg inquiry

PETER TREVNOR



Concern among Conservative MPs over the egg crisis intensified yesterday when Sir Richard Body (above), the Tory MP for Holland and Boston who is a former chairman of the agriculture committee, claimed that the Ministry of Agriculture had, in 1981, watered down planned controls on the production of animal protein food for poultry to protect egg producers. Sir Richard, a farmer, said on BBC radio's *The World This Week* that a much stronger order than the one eventually adopted was proposed after as much as 90 per cent of

the poultry examined was found to be contaminated with salmonella. He agreed there had been a tightening up since then of the way offal could be fed back to chickens, but he has called for an investigation by the all-party Commons select committee on agriculture. The ministry said that, since 1981, it had powers to sample production plants and to take immediate steps when salmonella was detected. So far this year, 12.5 per cent of plants had produced samples showing salmonella contamination.

## British firm to clinch tank bid

By Michael Evans Defence Correspondent

A Cabinet committee is expected to approve the purchase of 600 British-built Challenger 2 tanks at a cost of £1.4 billion for the Army today after a fierce Whitehall battle against its American rival, the M1A1 Abrams.

The decision to remain loyal to Vickers Defence Systems of Leeds, Britain's sole tank manufacturer, has been taken after an intense lobbying campaign, led by Lord Young of Grafton, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

Lord Young, who is well-known to Vickers and Sir David Plastow, its chairman, has fervently supported the British tank because of the 10,000 jobs that would be put at risk if the American option had been chosen.

His campaign to buy British, described last night as "a singular victory for Lord Young", was opposed by leading figures in the Ministry of Defence, including, it is believed, Mr Peter Levene, the chief of the procurement executive.

A significant number of Army chiefs had also made clear their preference for the Abrams tank.

But Lord Young told his Cabinet colleagues that a rejection of the British tank, an upgraded version of the existing Challenger Mark 1 in service with the British Army of the Rhine in West Germany, would mean the end of Britain's heavy tank industry.

If Challenger 2 were chosen, he said, it could generate export orders worth up to £12 billion. The Pakistani Army which has tested the Abrams is now showing interest in the British tank.

The Cabinet's overseas and defence committee, chaired by Mrs Thatcher, is expected to approve a proposal that Vickers must produce a Challenger 2 prototype within 12 months. Then a final assessment will be made between the Challenger 2 prototype and the M1A1 Abrams ("Black 2"), the version of the American tank being developed for Britain by General Dynamics.

However, sources yesterday said it was still possible for General Dynamics to win the contract if Vickers failed to deliver a successful prototype in a year's time.

● A £170 million Ministry of Defence contract for new radars, avionics and weapons for the Royal Navy's squadrons of Sea Harriers has helped to calm fears that the British Aerospace factory at Kingston, Surrey, could be shut, (Harvey Elliott writes).

Opposition MPs had said that the factory was on the company's list of possible closures as part of a long-term rationalization.

Last night British Aerospace said order books for both Harriers and Hawks made at Kingston were full but refused to rule out possible closure at some time in the future.

"We can't hold any site as sacrosanct. There is no nominated list of closure and Kingston has not figured in any such considerations."

Letters, page 11

## Rail unions at odds over Clapham inquiry leak

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

The rail unions were last night on the verge of a public dispute over the Clapham Junction disaster as British Rail considered ending their right to be present at internal inquiries.

Mr Maurice Holmes, the board's director of safety, was said to be "furious" over leaks from the hearing which is supposed to be secret.

The inquiry, expected to end today, has identified shortcomings in working practices and identified two technicians who may have contributed to the tragedy. British Rail, in a "preliminary and provisional judgement", said the signalling equipment where the trains crashed had been

defectively installed by its staff. The equipment was not to blame.

When the inquiry opened last Wednesday, Mr Holmes reminded those present that their deliberations were confidential and would be passed on to the Department of Transport which will be responsible for setting up the public inquiry to be headed by Mr Anthony Hadden, QC.

Apart from Mr Holmes, the three other men who make up the internal inquiry and who are entitled to ask witnesses questions are Mr Alan Galle, regional operations manager, and two British Railways Board engineers, Mr Kenneth Hodson and Mr James Vine.

The only other people in the inquiry room on a permanent basis have been

three representatives from the three rail unions, Aslef, which represents drivers, the National Union of Railwaymen, and TSSA, which represents clerical grades. They are there on the strict understanding that the evidence is to be regarded as confidential and can be used only for the unions to prepare their submissions for the public inquiry.

Last night, Mr Neil Milligan, general secretary of Aslef, said the right to be present at internal inquiries depended on union's maintaining confidentiality. It was an apparent attack on the NUR or the TSSA.

He said: "Aslef deplores the disclosure of evidence and information arising from the internal inquiry into the Clapham rail crash. Such disclo-

sure can only jeopardize future union attendance at such inquiries.

"Aslef took 25 years and thousands of pounds to establish the right of union participation and involvement at British Rail internal inquiries. A legal case taken to the House of Lords by Aslef alone established the rights of unions to participate in any employer's internal accident inquiry but such participation is dependent on unions maintaining confidentiality."

It is understood that while the inquiry has uncovered a number of unsatisfactory practices in the signalling department the unions will use the public inquiry to launch a catalogue of complaints dealing with long hours, pressure of work because of undermanning and low pay.

## Party ban bill could reach £1m

From John England, Bonn

The Government could be faced with a bill of up to £1 million from British servicemen in West Germany in compensation for hundreds of Christmas parties cancelled because of an air crash.

A ban was ordered at Bonn's request on December 9, the day after a US Air Force aircraft crashed at Rendsburg, near Dusseldorf, killing the pilot and five civilians.

The ban was lifted a week later after Lieutenant-General Sir Peter Inge, Commander of 1 British Corps, complained that the sudden cancellation of more than 350 parties had put many of his men and their families badly out of pocket.

Mr Archie Hamilton, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, went on British Forces television last Friday to explain the ban.

He said the Treasury had approved payment of out-of-pocket expenses for all cancellations not covered by insurance.

The ban was ordered after Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, spoke to Sir Geoffrey Howe at the Nato Foreign Ministers' conference in Brussels on December 9.

Music was stopped that evening while many parties were in full swing.

Servicemen were also angry when they heard that Americans had refused to stop parties.

## Legal profession agrees changes

## Barristers may act alone in courts

By Frances Gibb Legal Affairs Correspondent

Barristers will be able to appear in thousands of crown court cases without the need to have a solicitor in attendance under changes just agreed between the Lord Chancellor's Department, the Bar and the Law Society.

The new rule, which could cut public costs by millions when it is working fully because one lawyer will be paid instead of two, comes into force on February 1.

The deal has been hammered out after months of negotiations by the Efficiency Commission, which was set up between the Lord Chancellor's Department and the two sides of the legal profession.

Last week the Law Society council agreed to amend its professional conduct rules which at present require solicitors to accompany barristers in hearings of their clients' case in the crown court.

Under the new rule, a barrister will be able to appear without a solicitor where the defendant is pleading guilty; appealing against a sentence of the magistrates' court or been committed for sentence by such a court because its powers are insufficient. As many as 30,000 or more cases, some three fifths of crown court workload, will be affected by the change.

The rule makes clear that where the solicitor believes the client is at risk - juveniles, mentally ill, blind, or with a poor command of English - or where the client is likely to go to prison for the first time, solicitors should still attend.

The Law Society has been concerned to secure safeguards for clients before agreeing they should be left without a solicitor or his representative. Yesterday Mr Robert Johnson, QC, Bar chairman, said the move would represent a significant saving. Sometimes the solicitor's representative attending court for

less serious cases was "somebody with no personal knowledge of the case and sometimes very little knowledge of the law". He emphasized this was not widespread.

● The belief that the solicitors' monopoly of house sale conveyancing has been ended by recent legislation and that they have had to reduce their fees because of increased competition is a myth, a conveyancing solicitor claims in a book to be published next month.

Mr Michael Joseph says that the Administration of Justice Act 1985, which inaugurated licensed conveyancers to operate in competition with solicitors, and which was popularly thought to have broken the solicitors' conveyancing monopoly, in fact strengthened their position.

*The Conveyancing Fraud* (Michael Joseph, 27 Occupation Lane, London SE18 3JQ; £4.95).

## Scargill's call for overtime ban fails

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, last night turned on his fellow leaders after members narrowly voted against industrial action.

In the ballot, called in protest against British Coal's pay bargaining procedures, 28,650, 49.37 per cent, voted in favour of an overtime ban with 29,386, 50.63 per cent, voting against.

The result demonstrated that the NUM, which next year could be taken over by the Transport and General Workers' Union, is now bitterly divided with many of its officials rejecting the personal authority of Mr Scargill. He

said: "I deeply regret that a number of area leaders, despite pledges from some that they would abide by national policy, openly campaigned against a democratic decision taken by a conference of our union."

In the South Wales coalfield, members had been told by Mr Des Dufield, their president, that industrial action would "murder our pits, our communities and our union".

Sir Robert Haslam, British Coal chairman, welcomed the vote. He said: "They have put their families, their jobs and their pits before destructive industrial action".

## MP acts to halt dumping

By Andrew Morgan

An MP will today have talks with local authorities in Salisbury to explore the imposition of an enforcement order against a developer who he claims has "ruined four centuries of English countryside".

Raymond Brown Ltd, the developer, has allegedly dumped tons of excavated soil on ancient water meadows near the cathedral.

Mr Robert Key, Conservative MP for Salisbury, says that Wiltshire County Council wrote to the developer on

December 9 asking it to stop dumping the earth, which comes from a Tesco store development, until permission had been obtained.

He says the warning was ignored. The site, which is on private farmland and close to the meadows which Constable made famous in his cathedral painting, has been disfigured, he says.

Mr Andrew Christie-Miller, a county councillor, wrote to officers last week for an explanation and was told that

an injunction was being held until the Nature Conservancy Council had been consulted. The land was still being worked yesterday.

Mr Key will today table a written Commons question on the number of enforcement orders taken against developers proceeding without proper permission.

● North West Water Authority has sold two sites of special scientific interest near Bolton to Lancashire Trust for Nature Conservation.

## Judgement today on waterway's future

By Peter Davenport

A judgement that may decide the future of some of Britain's quietest and most beautiful stretches of water is to be made in the High Court today.

Mr Justice Vinelott is to decide whether a 40-mile stretch of the Derwent in North Yorkshire can be reopened for navigation.

The decision will have implications for many rivers and their use by commercial and pleasure craft.

Conservationists and wild-life campaigners have moun-

ted an elaborate defence against attempts to open up the waterway.

They fear that if they lose, damage to the river will be disastrous and other stretches of water could be opened to boats.

At the centre of legal argument heard by Mr Justice Vinelott during June and July is the interpretation of the Rights of Way Act 1932.

The judge is expected to rule whether the Act, normally invoked for footpaths, can be interpreted to cover water. It is expected to define the legal

rights of landowners to restrict the use of rivers which pass over or by their land.

The test case arose after an attempt eight years ago to start boat trips along the Derwent in aid of local children's charities. Individuals and organizations who formed the Derwent Appeal fiercely resisted the move.

The movement says the Derwent provides a natural habitat for a rare mix of freshwater crayfish, stoneflies, mayflies, dragon-flies, grouse, plovers and others, which would be jeopardized. They

argue that the case will create a legal precedent and could lead to similar action by boaters on other rivers, followed by developments which would destroy the unspoiled character of the waterways.

The navigation lobby, represented by the Yorkshire Derwent Trust, says victory would not mean an inevitable development of facilities.

Boaters used the river freely for centuries until 1935, when Parliament revoked the Navigation Act 1702. The High Court will rule if the revocation remains valid.

## WHITEHALL BRIEF by David Walker

## US advice on government reform to cure British disease

What reformers need - and would be reformers of Whitehall most of all - is a sharp and public sense of a wrong to be righted. Civil Service reform is, at best, a minority pursuit and without some public recognition of a "British problem", caused in part by inadequate men and machines in Whitehall, it usually escapes public attention.

But do the public think there is some problem in the way Britain is run? One of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's achievements has been to make the debate about the "British disease" a political test.

You can only believe in the persistence of some underlying set of themes to do with the management of the British economy (unwillingness to invest; lack of imagination among policy advisers) if you discredit Mrs Thatcher's

performance. To put it bluntly, to be a Whitehall reformer you have nowadays to be a dissident.

That political fact of life is likely to stifle in its cradle a renewed attempt to debate the structure and workings of the Civil Service signalled by the appearance of several new books. Mr Peter Hennessy's 850-page magnum opus on Whitehall is due out next month. Just the other week Walt Williams, an esteemed American professor, brought out *Washington, Westminster and Whitehall*, an attempt to import some lessons from the operations of the United States Congress to Britain.

Professor Williams, like Mr Hennessy, needs to call the demon of the "British disease" on stage before their respective dramas get going. Britain, he argues, cannot

tackle big questions of macro-economic policy (what happens when the oil runs out) or social restructuring (living with an under class) before it has modernized its means of governing itself.

He travels over well-trodden ground, including the idea of a cabinet of advisers for ministers, and decides that what Britain needs is stronger ministerial government. Perhaps it takes an American observer to suggest that government would be better if the office of prime minister were even more powerful than the present incumbent has made it.

But Professor Williams, perhaps thanks to his outside viewpoint, makes a connection which escapes many home-grown reformers: the inescapable consequences for parliamentary procedures of altering

the Civil Service and vice versa. Whitehall's ways will not radically change - however much progress the managerial revolution makes - until the House of Commons ceases to be a toy-town debating chamber and becomes more of a full-blooded legislature, equipped (and motivated) to appraise policy in a more sophisticated spirit than Prime Minister's Question Time ever shows.

The professor goes on to propose the abolition of Question Time together with the shift of much of the House into committees, whose members would become more expert, and such in more policy advice.

What he means is new ideas, or rather more clever people who have not been planned down into White-

hall smoothness who can say why the previous crop of bright ideas did not work.

A minister in the present government, or indeed a permanent secretary, reading his book would be mystified. Does Mrs Thatcher's Government really lack for "strategy", lack ideas for what it ought to do next, or lack the will to implement controversial policy? Patently not. Perhaps it is rather that Civil Service reform is a channel for those who in their hearts dislike politics, and for whom the "condition of Britain question" is a matter for public administrators rather than, as it properly is, something for combative ideologists.

*Washington, Westminster and Whitehall* (W Williams, Cambridge University Press; £25).

## More cash is pledged for London transport

Continued from page 1

Labour MPs, claimed yesterday that London's transport system was overloaded and overcrowded to the point where passengers' lives were being put at risk. "The Government has failed to take any effective action and they've no strategy to deal with the crisis we face. They've spent £10 million on studies but haven't learnt lessons that are obvious."

● The Department of Transport has commissioned a study into the way new roads influence surrounding land use and vice-versa. It has asked Marcial Echenique and Partners, the Cambridge consultants, to produce a software package which should enable it to forecast much more accurately the likely usage of new roads.

Mr Tony Banks, chairman of the London Group of



British firm to clinch tank bid

# Victim of knife gang offers £5,000 to trap 'scum of the earth'

By Michael Horsnell

A victim of an armed gang which is terrorizing the Surrey stockbroker belt told yesterday of the ordeal he and his family have endured.

Mr Richard Napier, a retired toy company director, spoke as his son Timothy, aged 40, was recovering from multiple stab wounds in an intensive care unit at East Surrey Hospital, Redhill.

A reward for the capture of the three men was increased yesterday to £25,000. Police said they could strike again.

Det Chief Supt Vincent McFadden, head of Surrey CID, said that police had been inundated with calls from the public and from criminals sickened by the gang's violence.

More than 40 calls were made to the incident room in three hours on Saturday night and many suggested identities. Senior detectives from Surrey and south London met at Reigate to co-ordinate the police response.

The officers have drawn up a list of 11 violent crimes, including a murder, a rape in Coulsdon and several aggravated burglaries, which the gang has carried out since September in Surrey, Kent and south London.

The three-man gang burst into the Napier family's £500,000 country house in Oxted on Friday only hours after murdering a motorist.

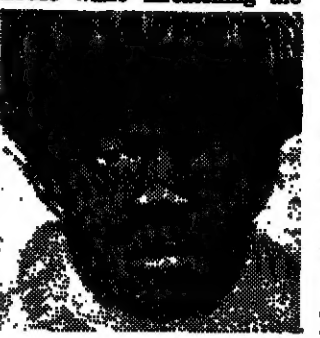
Mr Napier, aged 66, said: "I

was woken up from a deep sleep in the early hours by a light shining in my face. Then I saw that there was a man holding a pistol. He ordered me out of bed and pushed me into my son Timothy's bedroom. I then saw an opportunity to grapple with the man and at exactly the same time, my son did too.

"We managed to get out of the bedroom and on to the landing. It was then I realized there were another two men and I saw one of them draw a knife. My son and I carried on the tussle and somehow managed to force the three of them down the stairs.

"While this was all going on my son had been stabbed and he lost a lot of blood."

The gang then pushed Mr Napier upstairs and into the bedroom of his wife, Margaret, before ransacking the house while threatening the



Photofit of one of the men being hunted by police

terrified woman. His son dragged himself to a telephone in the study downstairs and dialled 999.

"All the time the man with the handgun was shouting that he would shoot us if we did not do what we were told", Mr Napier added.

After stealing many things from the house, the hooded attackers grabbed Mr Timothy Napier's car keys and fled from the mansion in Woodhurst Lane, Oxted, in his Toyota Corolla car.

They stopped at Fetcham, dragged a couple from their bed and ransacked their house.

Mr Napier said: "After they had gone, I went downstairs and took the phone out of my son's hand. He was unconscious. They were not a bit concerned about what they had done to my son."

"I had a feeling that they were not expecting to be grappled with and as soon as we did with one, the others came up and joined in."

Mr Napier has put up £5,000 towards the £25,000 reward for any information leading to the three men's conviction. He said: "They were ignorant and the scum of the earth. The lowest of the low. They should not exist."

Police believe the gang could be high on drugs, flirting with the excitement of striking time and time again while evading arrest.

# Kidnappers' scourge gets his reward

DENZIL MCNEELANCE

Max, the mongrel, which saved his schoolgirl owner from an attempted kidnapping, yesterday won the gold medal for lifesaving awarded each year by the Pro Dogs Charity founded by Miss Lesley Scott-Ordish.

Max from Kippax, West Yorkshire, was walking with Vicky Clark, aged 11, last September when two masked men leapt from a car and tried to grab her.

Max fought them off, allowing the girl to flee down an alleyway where the kidnappers could not follow in the car. Max arrived back at the family home some hours later with his coat matted with human blood, apparently from one of the men.

The Pet of the Year award went to James, the corgi from the Queen's kennels which helped its new owner, Miss Daphne Stark, of Haverfordwest, Dyfed, to recover from a hip operation. The award also went to it for cheering up many of Miss Stark's fellow hospital patients.

Miss Scott-Ordish said: "He was bred by the Queen who gives some of her dogs away to people in the interests of good bloodstock."

An award for devotion to duty went to Sammy the German shepherd dog which, in spite of losing its right eye, saved its owner, Bernadette Barton, of Uckfield, East Sussex, by placing itself between her and a runaway stallion which went berserk during a riding trip.

Mrs Johanna Wothke, whose work for animals in Bavaria has led to the setting up of a sanctuary, won a special award at the ceremony, held in Wilkesden, north-west London.



Vicky Clark, aged 11, with her pet mongrel, Max, which saved her from being kidnapped

# Released hostage enjoyed captivity

By Andrew McEwen  
Diplomatic Correspondent

A British cameraman held for 18 months by right-wing rebels in Mozambique flew home yesterday and said he had enjoyed his captivity.

"I had a super time. The worst thing was coming back to all the traffic in London", Mr Nicholas della Casa, aged 28, said after being released in what the leader of the Renamo forces called a goodwill gesture.

Mr della Casa's idea of a good time was somewhat unusual. He had to run for his life when the rebel unit he was with was attacked by Zimbabwean troops, who are helping the Mozambique army. Twice more he had to move on quickly because of fighting in the area.

He seemed amused when asked if a tent had been provided for him to live in, having lived African-style in shelters made of local materials. Far from living rough, he thought it was comfortable.

"My only problem is that I am overweight from eating too much and exercising too little", he said.

While the British authorities considered him a hostage, Mr della Casa thought of himself as a prisoner. He said he was arrested as an illegal immigrant after entering what Renamo considered to be its territory in an attempt to make a documentary film.

He was not allowed to film what he saw, but made copious notes. Before leaving he met Mr Afonso Dhlakama, leader of Renamo, who has said that his release was "a gesture of goodwill".

## Christmas flights

# Staff flu adds to fears of long delays

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Sickness among air traffic controllers and bunching of flights has forced the Civil Aviation Authority to draw up plans for tough flow control on aircraft and raised fears of long delays this week.

An epidemic of colds and flu hampered the main air traffic control centre at West Drayton, with about 20 per cent of the staff absent at 50. Yesterday eight controllers out of 50 on two shifts reported sick and last week 16 were off on one day. One controller said: "Working in enclosed air-conditioned rooms has meant that the germs are spreading like wildfire."

There are no spare staff to meet the surge in demand for flights over the Christmas period.

Airlines are reporting big increases in demand for travel and many flights — especially to Spain, Greece and the Caribbean — are already full.

The aviation authority, which is not

represented on committees planning flight schedules, is angry that many charter flights leave for the same destinations at the same time.

Luton airport, for example, has scheduled six flights to Palma all leaving at 9am. At peak times, Gatwick airport has up to 58 flights scheduled in one hour while the maximum which can leave the single runway is 42 an hour.

Some flights will have to be delayed to the next hour, leading to a knock-on effect that could last for much of the day.

The growing use of non-stop transatlantic flights from the West Coast of America has also meant that a wave of jumbo jets is arriving in Europe between 10am and 11am. Because the aircraft do not have the fuel reserves to wait for a landing slot they are diverted from the crowded airports and delaying passengers even longer.

The authority said Heathrow will handle more than 1,000 flights a day

during Thursday and Friday and Gatwick between 550 and 600 a day. "The flow management unit will have to apply restrictions on the number of aircraft it can handle."

British Airways will be putting on extra flights and expects to carry nearly 48,000 passengers on Friday alone. Late bookers are likely to be disappointed.

One of the busiest routes is expected to be to Ireland. Ryanair estimates it will carry more than 20,000 people and have scheduled nearly 100 additional flights between now and Christmas Day compared with last year.

Continental air traffic controllers predict long delays on routes to Spain.

Once the Christmas rush is over, the problem of peak-time congestion will switch to the weekends when ski holidays traditionally start. Hotels in most resorts change over on Saturdays while ski-lift passes run from weekend to weekend.

## Tabloid loses £6.8m

# Shah sets new sights on TV

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Mr Eddy Shah, unbowed by his second failure with a national newspaper within four years, spoke yesterday of his plans in television — and a wish to help small businesses.

The *Post*, launched as a downmarket tabloid for the family, was on the streets for just five weeks and incurred losses of £6.8 million.

Its daily circulation hovered around 100,000, well below the necessary break-even sales figure of 370,000. Ninety journalists on the newspaper were told of its demise on Saturday.

Meanwhile the Warrington-based Messenger group of weekly newspapers, which originally brought Mr Shah to national prominence during a

prolonged dispute with the National Graphical Association, has been sold to Reed International for £25 million.

Having presided over the disastrous launch of *Today*, his first foray into national newspapers, Mr Shah yesterday was philosophical about the latest setback.

"These things happen. The market was wrong. It is as simple as that. We gave it a fair shot."

"Yes, we had an awareness problem when we launched but we put that right with a big campaign. Sales went up but as soon as advertising stopped the market fell away again."

"I think the reason why some papers like *The Independent* have made ground is

because more thinking people are actually more susceptible to change — whereas at the bottom end of the market they stick to what they know."

"You have got to be a lot more sleazy and go in with the dirt — and I am not prepared to do that."

Mr Shah, who used to work for the BBC, now has his heart set on television. Messenger Television, which he set up earlier this year, has completed its first series for independent television, *Capstick's Law*.

Mr Lloyd Turner, editor of *The Post*, said last night he was trying to find a buyer for the newspaper but would not know for 24 hours if anyone would be forthcoming.

# Surgery offer to children as RAF gift

A health authority and the RAF have teamed together to give children in a deprived area who have been waiting for more than a year for operations a Christmas present of surgery at a military hospital.

Children with ear, nose and throat complaints will be taken in a bus from South Wales to the military hospital across the border in England for treatment to ease waiting lists.

A senior RAF doctor was visiting the East Glamorgan Hospital at Church village near Pontypridd in Mid Glamorgan at the weekend to hold clinics and assess children who have been waiting for operations.

# Christian role sought for college

By Our Education Reporter

Christian businessmen on Tyneside intend to establish a City Technology College along fundamentalist lines.

The businessmen want to use St John Fisher School, Gateshead. The former Roman Catholic comprehensive, which closed last year, has been bought by the CTC Trust, the body set up by the Government to oversee its programme for the creation of 20 of the new colleges by 1990.

The Gateshead CTC, teaching a mixture of high technology and evangelical Christianity, would be the first of its kind in Britain. Approval is needed from Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

The projects so far launched are all for secular secondary schools specializing in science and technology.

Mr Cyril Taylor, chairman of the CTC Trust, said planning for the new college was well advanced.

Mr Baker said: "I would not agree to an admission policy to a CTC which was exclusive to one particular religion or a denomination."

The project has attracted the support of Professor Brian Griffiths, head of the Prime Minister's policy unit.

But Dr Sheila Lawlor, deputy director of the Centre for Policy Studies, and a leading Roman Catholic lay person, said: "I think the idea of a CTC reserved for evangelical Christians is highly alarming."

## Higher education funding

# Baker backs tuition charges

By Douglas Brown, Education Reporter

The Government is willing to allow universities and polytechnics to charge students for the cost of their tuition, it emerged yesterday.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, said there was no legal barrier to students being charged.

Tuition for all students has been free up to now but, on Friday, Sir John Kingman, vice chancellor of Bristol University, called for the right to charge fees to enable universities to expand without cost to the taxpayer.

Mr Baker, speaking on BBC television, said he would only approve a change from the present system if universities could devise acceptable bursary and scholarship schemes

to protect those who could not afford to pay fees. "If universities come to us with schemes and say this is one of the ways in which we could actually expand our university, which is what Sir John Kingman is saying, I would want to look at that very seriously", Mr Baker said.

"I would want to be satisfied that if there were a system of part-payment of fees, that it did not discourage children from more disadvantaged backgrounds from going into higher education."

He accepted that the introduction of bursaries would involve means-testing students, but universities already had the power to introduce such fees if they wished.

"I couldn't stop it happen-

ing. I would have to actually take a Bill through the House of Commons to stop universities charging fees if they wanted to", he said.

A "think tank" working for his department was already looking at two other methods for transferring some of the funding of higher education away from government, but he ruled out the introduction of a "graduate tax" similar to that being pioneered in Australia under which graduates paid a higher rate of tax to repay their tuition fees.

Mr Baker said he wanted to see a big expansion in the numbers of students in higher education and predicted that, next year, there would be more than one million students for the first time.

# Sexism 'damages economy'

By Our Education Reporter

Sexism in the classroom is harming Britain's economic performance, the Association of Educational Psychologists said yesterday.

In a report on Sexism in Schools, the association urges teachers to ensure boys are not allowed to dominate their attention, either in the classroom or in the playground.

It says boys are preventing girls from reaching their full potential in science and technology and thus depriving the nation of much-needed exper-

tise. "Boys' monopoly of physical space, of linguistic space and of teacher attention tend to restrict access to good quality skills training", the report says.

"Until girls are educated to be technologically competent and confident, and boys are educated to participate fully in running a home, our sexist society will continue."

It says boys crowd girls away from science equipment and make more noise in laboratories than girls. In the classroom, girls take the role of wife and mother, providing

erasers and pencils for boys and helping with their work.

● Pupils at independent schools under the Assisted Places Scheme achieved a 90 per cent pass rate at A level this year, the national average is 60 per cent. Statistics from the Independent Schools Information Service also show that 66 per cent of assisted places pupils get passes at grades A and B at O level — double the national average.

Sexism in Schools (Association of Educational Psychologists, 3 Sunderland Road, Durham DH1 2HF, £2).

# WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT BEING ABLE TO LEAD A NORMAL LIFE?



# ASK HER. SHE HAS CANCER.

Anne knows what it's like when the physical and emotional effects of cancer turn your life upside down; of the despair it causes when you're no longer capable of looking after your family.

But she was lucky. The Macmillan nurse who helped to care for her while she was in hospital was able to continue that care when she returned home again.

During her regular visits, she helped to keep Anne's pain under control and gave her all the emotional support she needed to face life again.

Anne knows how special it is to be normal now. Just being able to cook the dinner or spend time with her little boy.

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# Plea for more collaboration on gene research

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

British scientists could lose their foothold in the most ambitious research project since man landed on the moon unless they collaborate more effectively, according to Dr Dai Rees, head of the Medical Research Council.

The warning issued by Dr Rees concerns the UK's contribution to the production of a complete map of the thousands of genes contained in each cell in the body.

Many scientists believe the key to curing cancer and hundreds of genetically-based diseases and disorders depends on the venture.

The research council is spending £10

million, mainly through its Laboratory for Molecular Biology, at Cambridge, and another £10 million has been allocated through medical research foundations and charities, but an estimated £1 billion is needed to obtain the complete genetic blueprint.

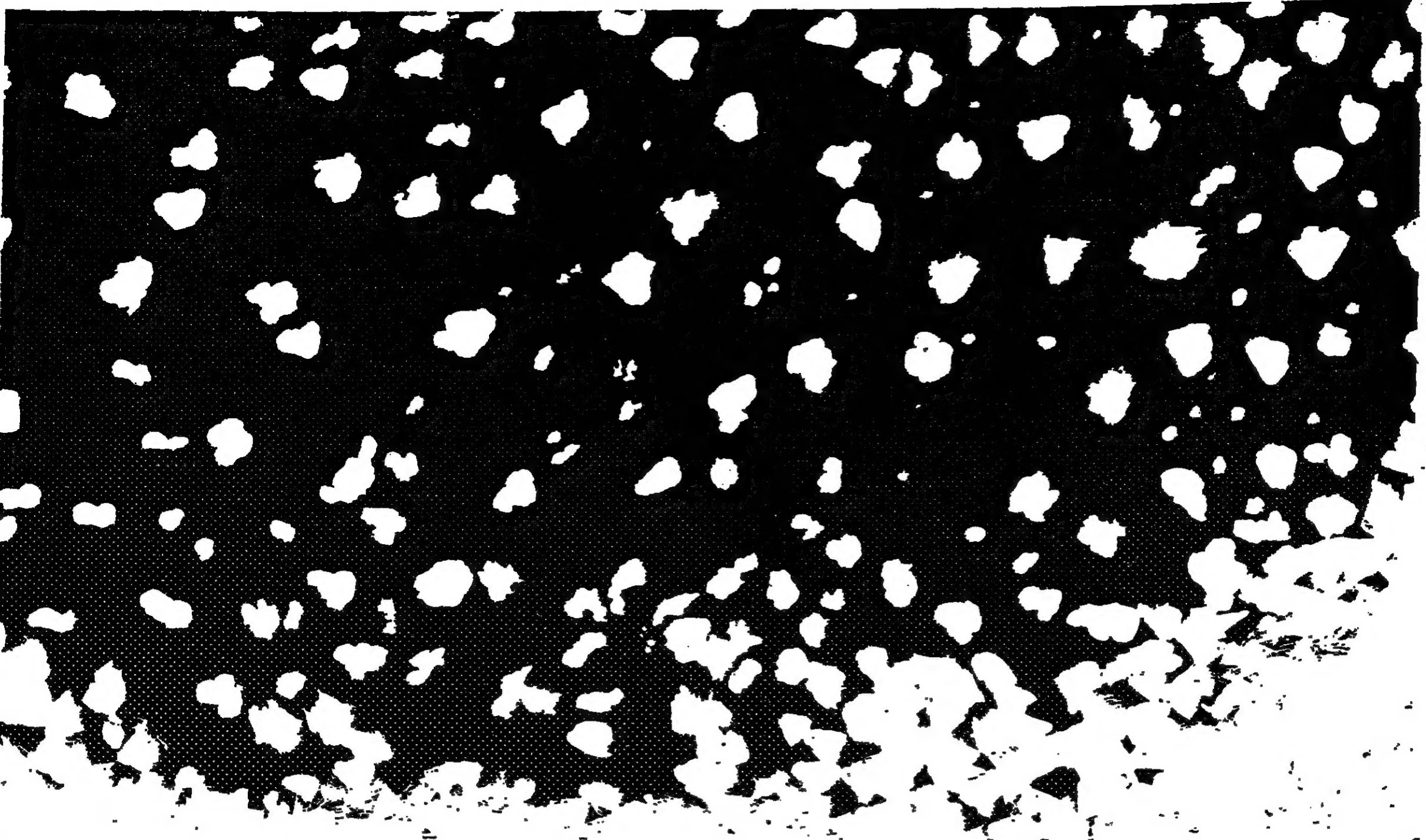
A recommendation to divide the work between the world's leading research centres is contained in proposals from an international scientific workshop on the Human Genome Project.

The United States has earmarked \$500 million for research and in Europe Italy has launched a genome project. France has a modest national effort and Germany is planning one, but these are the only countries with dedicated na-

tional projects. An effort to unify splintered European is now being made by Dr Peter Pearson.

He is producing a plan for the European Community under the title of "predictive medicine". If it is agreed, it will provide about £15 million for a three-year project and will extend work begun last year to produce blueprints for simple organisms, starting with yeasts. However, the techniques depend on basic discoveries by a few research centres led by the research council's Nobel prize-winning laboratories at Cambridge, the Genomach research group at San Francisco, and teams at Stanford University, California, and the University of California in Los Angeles.





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**THE NEW FACE OF BRITISH COAL**

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# Shock tactic to halt Aids has missed target, says expert

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The shock tactic used in the Government's campaign to halt the spread of the Aids virus is failing to reach its target, an expert meeting will be told in London today.

The Department of Health's education programme has disclosed the difficulty of altering ingrained behaviour.

Scientists gathering for a special session of the annual London conference of the British Psychological Society, called to assess progress in coping with the Aids epidemic after eight years, will learn that some individuals are obstinate, some will never change, many do not believe themselves at risk and a large number need a lot of help.

The impact of a campaign based upon a message of fear and targeted particularly to drug users who inject themselves has been examined by Dr Lorraine Sherr, a clinical psychologist from the Southampton Institute and St Mary's Hospital in London.

She has compared the effects of the posters and television advertisements on a group of students and a group of people at high risk of contracting the virus, who are attending a drug dependency unit.

She found the advertisements raised some anxiety in the students but less in the targeted group of drug users.

Even in those who reported fear, they did little to change their behaviour in sexual practices or drug use.

On an international level, research from the United States will be presented to show how little is understood

The Department of Health will receive plans this week from the Medical Research Council for a scheme for random screening of the population for HIV infection. The council says it will take three months to decide if a large screening project would be technically and economically effective. The proposal is for anonymous testing for HIV of blood from those giving it voluntarily for other analysis. The department is considering a study involving testing of named patients.

of the powerful behaviours in the private world of drug addiction and sexual longing.

The American government is spending \$300 million a year on public education. The greatest impact has occurred in San Francisco, which has experienced remarkable changes in behaviour among the homosexual community that was first ravaged in the west by the Aids epidemic.

American experience will also show that the best impact comes from designing advertising campaigns that are more narrowly targeted and carry information that has greater personal relevance.

In the British study, no one considered the campaign to be aimed at him or her, and both groups regarded themselves as having a low risk of acquiring the disease.

In fact, 42 per cent of drug users and 24 per cent of students felt there was no risk to them although about a third of both groups had a variety of sexual partners over the pre-

vious six months. Progress in other studies will also be discussed at the Aids symposium. The subjects include the problems of caring for Aids sufferers; there are the worried well, which comprises the large number who ask again and again for HIV testing, often when there is no risk; counselling for Aids sufferers; the needs of nurses for education; and an evaluation of a syringe exchange scheme.

The role of advertising in public education will be raised in a more relaxed session devoted to the psychology of wine appreciation.

The psychologists' seminar will be told that both the Prime Minister and Mr Neil Kinnock are skilful at dodging awkward questions from interviewers, but use different techniques to get off the hook.

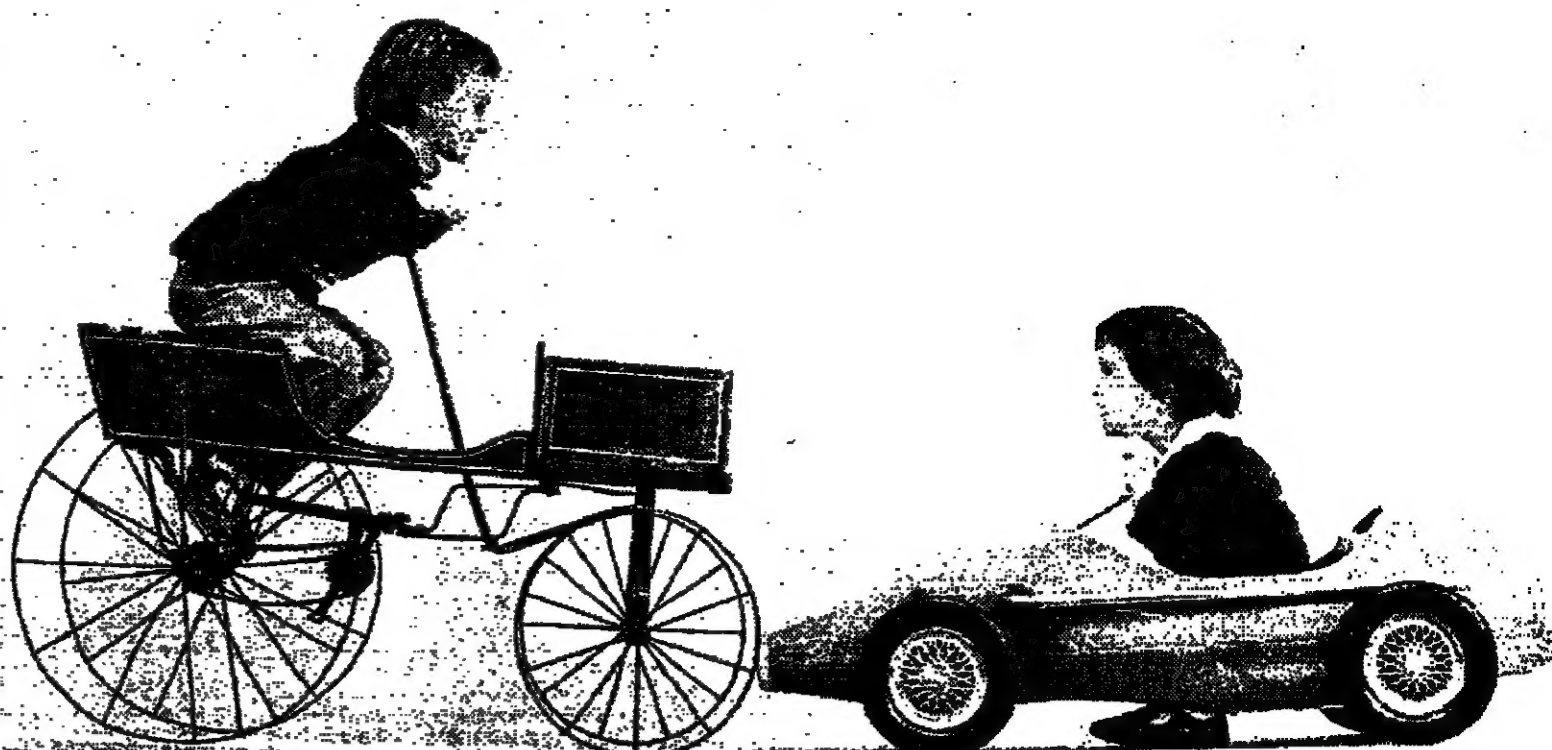
Mrs Thatcher intimidates interviewers by attacking them, while Mr Kinnock uses tactics such as claiming that he has just answered a question, when he has just evaded it, a study of some of their television interviews has shown.

"This may make him appear more evasive, although objectively there is no difference between the two politicians in this respect," researchers from York University's psychology department say.

The results show "substantial evasion by both politicians": the Prime Minister dodged 56 per cent of the questions, and Mr Kinnock 59 per cent, during eight interviews, and they found 31 different ways of doing so.

Letters, page 11

## Sotheby's car sale off to a racing start



Veterans of the pedal car world. Katie Hodge, aged three, (left) is in a French pedal car, circa 1905, while Alexi Hodge, aged five, drives a racing car. These are two of the lots on offer at Sotheby's, Billingshurst, West Sussex, tomorrow, when the Shaun Magee Collection of Pedal Cars and Toys comes under the hammer. Price estimates range from £25-£40 for an early scooter to £4,000-£6,000 for a Harrington three-seater motor coach dating from the 1950s.

## Crime risk 'in benefit changes'

By Peter Evans  
Home Affairs  
Correspondent

Concern is mounting that changes to the social security system will put more young people into custody and affect those who are homeless.

A warning by Prince Edward on Friday about the plight of the 30,000 people aged 16 to 19 sleeping rough in London is underlined by one issued today by Action against Youth Crime.

The changes, intended to increase young people's self-reliance, would have the opposite effect, the group says. The leading organizations involved in Action on Youth Crime are directly concerned nationally with the welfare of young people.

Social security changes in April reduced levels of income support for young people, the group says.

Those changes were followed in September by the withdrawal of income support from most young people under 18.

## Motorway repairs

### Channel link with national network

Work starts next month on the first of two contracts to fill a gap in the M20 between Maidstone and Ashford, Kent.

When completed the motorway will provide an unbroken 50-mile link from the Channel tunnel and Folkestone to the M25 and the national motorway network.

The first contract, for a 7½-mile stretch costing £39.4 million, has been let to Costain Civil Engineering.

Roadworks until next Monday

## Scotland

M8 Strathclyde: westbound en-

try slip at jn 14 (Glasgow) closed; signed diversions. Off-peak lane restrictions on all approach roads to jn 29 (Paisley).

M8 Lothian: contraflow at jn 3 (Livingston) because of resurfacing; expected to be completed tomorrow.

M9 Central: outside lane closed southbound at jn 9 (Bannockburn); temporary lights north of Dunblane.

M90 Fife: lane closures at jn 1 (A90).

## Midlands

M5 Hereford and Worcester: contraflow between jns 4 and 4a (A38/M42).

## North

M63 Ctr Manchester: northbound lane closures between jns 1 and 3 (M62/Barton); contraflow between jns 3 and 6 (Barton/A6144).

M62 Gtr Manchester: contraflow between jns 21 and 22 (A640/A672).

M62 W Yorks: contraflow between jns 24 and 25 (Huddersfield/A644) for construction of crawler lane; long delays at peak times.

M180 Humber: lane closures in both directions between jns 1 and 3 (Thorne/Scunthorpe).

M6 Cheshire: various link and

slip road closures at jn 20 (M56 and A50); due to finish by Wednesday.

## Wales and West

M5 Devon: outside lane closed northbound between jns 31 and 30 (at Exeter).

M5 Somerset: lane closures in both directions between jns 21 and 26 (A370/A38).

M4 Gwent: contraflow eastbound between jns 22 and 23 (Chepstow/Magor).

M4 W Glamorgan: lane restrictions eastbound between jns 46 and 45 (A4067/Swanssea); delays possible.

Information supplied by AA Roadwatch

## Guide for GPs on reports

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Doctors are being urged to help patients to make full use of laws giving them the right to see medical reports compiled for employment or insurance purposes.

The British Medical Association yesterday said it was issuing guidelines for family doctors on the Medical Re-

ports Act which becomes law on January 1. The BMA supports the legislation which means patients can challenge reports requested by insurance firms or potential employers.

● The number of people covered by private medical insurance grew by 6.6 per cent to 5.25 million in 1987, while

spending on private acute health care rose by 13 per cent to £909 million, according to a directory published today.

The publication, edited by Mr William Laing, a health care consultant, shows the rise in medical insurance was double the average increase between 1982 and 1986.

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# Doveish Gorbachov leaves America looking for someone to hate

Senator John Tower enters office as the newly appointed Defence Secretary in the Bush Administration at one of the Pentagon's most difficult peacetime junctures. Its budget has all but run out. Not only will costly weapons systems ordered in the last years have to be trimmed or delayed, but some will have to be cancelled, the \$68 billion (£37.5 billion) Stealth bomber programme being the most likely victim.

But it is not only the lack of money that will compel Mr Tower to reverse his old big-spending instincts. Since President Gorbachov's visit to the United Nations, there has been a new urgency to rethink strategic policy. The Pentagon, along with all Western defence ministries, is feeling the intense pressure of public opinion that has begun to question the need for a continued defence build-up. Mr Gorbachov's unilateral offer of troop withdrawals, his brief but charismatic tour of New York and, with dramatic juxtaposition, the terrible earthquake in Armenia have changed US thinking about the Soviet

Union more rapidly and profoundly than any politicians could have foreseen. The spontaneous outpouring of American grief, sympathy, money and aid for the earthquake victims is but one striking result.

To many Americans, the new Soviet humanity in dealing with this catastrophe, as well as President Gorbachov's offer of an end to ideological conflict and the removal of the Soviet bogey from regional conflicts — with consequent breakthroughs in Angola and Afghanistan, Cambodia and possibly even the Middle East — have held out a new vision of hope. And in response, many people are voicing a sentiment that may be the greatest challenge to US military policies since the Cuban missile crisis: surely it is time to end the Cold War.

Mr Gorbachov has called on the West to abandon the notion of the Soviet adversary and see instead a cordial, if not necessarily friendly, competitor in what he called "a fair rivalry of ideologies". The invitation has greater appeal to Western public opinion than any

previous Soviet "peace initiative". Whatever the warnings of Mr Caspar Weinberger, the former Defence Secretary, and other conservatives that "it is far too early to change course", and "the jury has barely left the courtroom on Gorbachov", most people think it is time to end, or at least slow down, the vast apparatus of institutionalized hostility.

They ask why it is that, if the Cold War is over, it is still being fought, and question whether the US still needs to increase its crippling expenditure on ever more deadly weapons.

The truth is that Mr Gorbachov's proposed military cuts and his offer of a superpower condominium, with the ideology removed, immensely complicates US policy. It asks President-elect George Bush to cross a threshold of belief and trust into a mire of domestic argument over America's commitments and world role.

It throws out of the window the assumptions of the past 40 years that have bound Nato together, transformed nationalism in Western Europe into a common pur-

pose, and defined Western values against a clearly perceived threat. It leaves dead in the water arguments for the build-up of conventional forces, which the US has been urging on the reluctant Europeans. And it makes the Strategic Defence Initiative (Star Wars), the Stealth bomber, and other technological toys seem as

## Washington View

By Michael Binyon

essential to defence as a milk coat is to keeping warm. Strong arguments are, therefore, being made that the Cold War has not, in fact, ended. US conservatives have taken the unusual position of publicly disagreeing with Mrs Thatcher, saying her declaration that the war was over was wishful thinking. They argue that the West has to keep its guard until the vanished new Soviet defensive military posture leads to real cuts on the ground, to press home its ideological offensive until the alliance has clearly won on its own terms. Mr George Shultz, the

Secretary of State, exemplified this wait-and-see view by insisting that it all depended on what one meant by the Cold War. And many people ask whether the Soviet military will go along with the Gorbachov proposals, and whether he will be ousted along with his grandiose ideas.

But even if such sensible caution were rewarded with results, many people doubt whether the US is ready for radical restructuring of the postwar world. It would have to exercise a different kind of leadership, where the challenge would be economic and not military security. As Charles Krauthammer, a conservative columnist, put it: "Ironically, the decline of the Soviet threat might impair the solidarity, and arrest the integration, of the West. Nations need enemies. Take away one, and they find another. This is not so much a psychological principle as a political principle. Parties and countries need mobilizing symbols of 'otherness' to energize the nation and give it purpose."

The problem for the US is that

there are no substitutes for Moscow to play the role of enemy. The Chinese have long moved out of that camp. The Arabs, still regularly vilified in popular thinking, were never seen as a security threat, only a terrorist nuisance.

The "ugly friends" — Chile, South Korea, the Philippines — are changing, and only South Africa remains a real villain. But that is still not on a global scale.

There is no one against whom the US can define itself. Mr Graham Fuller, a former CIA official said recently: "I don't know what we will do without the Soviet Union as a touchstone for Third World policy." Another columnist noted that, with the Kremlin boasting that military capacity was being given over to consumer goods, "it is not easy to loathe an enemy who is beating his swords into plowshares."

How the US converts its military capacity into a real assault on drugs, homelessness and the decaying city fabric is also a challenge that most politicians here would rather not face. But they do recognize that, as the

Russians fade in popular "enemy" culture, — witness the flop of the last "Rambo" film — the seeds of a new cold war are growing. This time the war is economic, and the enemy undoubtedly Japan. Economic nationalism, as Mr Richard Gephardt found during the presidential election campaign, is a powerful force already in America.

It is not an easy war in which the US can engage or for which Mr Tower can re-order the military: there are no moral guidelines or underlying values. Old allies are not so reliable — already America is beginning to see a strengthened European Community as a challenge, not a fellow fighter. A multipolar world, with the five powers — the Soviet Union, China, Europe, Japan and America — changing their relationships is more complex for Washington to manage than the bipolar confrontation of the postwar era. But this is the challenge. Mr Gorbachov threw down. Mr Bush and Mr Tower must do some hard thinking and make painful decisions in response.

## Palestinians maintain pressure for change as Israel battens down the hatches

# PLO will appoint exile government early in new year

From Christopher Walker, Tunis

The Palestine Liberation Organization plans within the next three months to follow up its declaration of an independent state with the appointment of a provisional government-in-exile designed to increase diplomatic pressure for the convening of an international Middle East peace conference.

Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO executive committee member who led the delegation to last Friday's historic talks with the US Administration, said: "The differences over the creation of the government of Palestine are almost all overcome, and we will be appointing a broad-based government from all the PLO groups, ranging from Muslims to Marxists, within two to three months."

Mr Arafat, a member of the left-wing Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), said in a 60-minute interview that the decision to press ahead with the establishment of the government had been taken because of the greater than expected response to the November 15 proclamation of a Palestinian state.

A number of Arab countries, including Tunisia, Iraq and Algeria, have offered to provide the headquarters for the new government, but many Palestinians would like to see it in Cairo.

Senior Israeli sources in the Egyptian capital said that any such move would cross a "red line" which could seriously endanger the future of the 1979 peace treaty.

Mr Arafat, a fast rising star inside the PLO, said the new government would include absentee members from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He implied that there would be no attempt to limit it to those who might prove acceptable negotiating partners for

Israel. "Those who have fought the war will make the peace," he declared.

Mr Arafat, speaking in the fluent English he used in the 90-minute meeting with Mr Robert Pelletreau, the US Ambassador — dispensing with an inept translator — outlined in detail the opening stages of the US-Palestinian dialogue, the first for 13 years.

"In military terms, it was more like a reconnaissance with both sides outlining basic positions," he explained.

"We made it clear that the question of bilateral negotiations between us and other Arab countries and the Israelis was out of the question. The negotiating has to take place

in the context of an international conference."

Although the US Embassy here has tried to keep details of the conversation under wraps, Mr Arafat made it clear that differences over the way that future negotiations might be conducted were already proving to be key sticking points.

"We told them we reject entirely the idea of a bilateral solution, which appeared to be what they now favour. We are not Egypt, Arafat is not Sadat. The Egyptians had many things like Sinai to offer when they talked peace. We have nothing. If we do not coordinate on an Arab level and go into this without the presence of Western Europe and the Soviet Union, we will

go naked. The Israelis will suffocate us."

Mr Arafat revealed that his organization had used the meeting to formalize demands for the Reagan Administration to deal even-handedly with Israel.

"We told them they must take equal action against state terrorism of the type which happened on Friday, when five Palestinians in Nablus were shot dead in cold blood," he declared. "We will follow that up with a formal letter to the US Administration. They cannot expect us to give pledges about renouncing terrorism and not at the same time impose similar conditions on Israeli military behaviour."

Mr Arafat implied that Mr Pelletreau had been taken aback by the detailed PLO position on the subject. "When we put the point to him about imposing the same restraints on Mr (Yitzhak) Shamir (the Israeli Prime Minister) as are imposed on us, he just laughed," he said. "But there was no doubt he took the logic of the point."

Mr Arafat, born in the port of Jaffa which he left in 1948, and educated in economics at universities in Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon, is typical of the new breed of smooth, articulate PLO front men whose diplomatic skills bear the trade-mark of effective tutelage from Moscow.

He outlined the PLO's blueprint for maintaining the remarkable momentum of the last few weeks in the Middle East, saying that delegations were now being dispatched to Western Europe and the Soviet Union to press for further action on the Franco-Soviet initiative to convene a committee of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, including Britain, to prepare groundwork for the conference.

To prove that the PLO has not changed, Israeli officials point to a statement by Mr Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), who



Israeli settlers venting anger in Jerusalem over the US-PLO dialogue yesterday as Palestinians demonstrate support for it at Beit Sahur in the West Bank.

## Israelis divided over response to Arafat

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

As the death toll on the West Bank grew yesterday after a weekend of violence, Israel's two main parties in the caretaker coalition — Likud and Labour — emerged from a Cabinet meeting with divisions over how to respond to the combined impact of the year-long Arab intifada (uprising) and the diplomatic success of the Palestine Liberation Organization after the resumption of terrorism last week in Geneva by Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman.

Some senior Labour officials said that, after the American decision to open direct talks with the PLO, PLO-Israeli talks should begin to defuse the unrest and seek peace.

But Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud Prime Minister, and Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Labour Defence Minister, vowed to crack down on violent protest and bitterly attacked the United States for beginning talks with PLO officials in Tunis on Friday.

To prove that the PLO has not changed, Israeli officials point to a statement by Mr Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), who

said in Abu Dhabi on Saturday that the PLO would still attack Israeli military targets, despite Mr Arafat's undertakings, and would continue "the heroic intifada". He added: "We will carry on our struggle until the Palestinian flag is hoisted over Jerusalem" — a statement likely to justify the Israelis' worst fears.

Labour officials said Likud had hardened its position over the weekend not only over the intifada but also on other key coalition issues, such as the building of new Jewish settlements on the West Bank, the distribution of portfolios, and proposed defence cuts to give further funding to the religious parties, which gained support in the general election of November 1.

With little prospect at the moment of a renewed Likud-Labour government of national unity, Mr Shamir reopened talks today with religious party leaders on forming a government without Labour, which is led by Mr Shimon Peres, the dovish Foreign Minister.

Diplomats said a right-wing government including the re-

ligious parties, if Mr Shamir succeeded in forming one, would support his hard line.

Yesterday Labour ministers proposed local self-government for West Bank and Gaza Palestinians, with Israel retaining security control. Some Likud figures such as Mr Moshe Arens, tipped as a successor to Mr Peres as Foreign Minister, favoured the idea, but sources said Mr Shamir was against it.

Israeli leaders reacted angrily over the weekend to the US decision to open talks with the PLO, and said that the



Mr Shamir: Reopening talks with the religious parties.

West Bank violence demonstrated that Washington's move had encouraged the Palestinians uprising.

More than 1,000 Likud supporters staged a rally in the centre of Jerusalem over the weekend calling for an end to what they called PLO and American state terror and urging Mr Shamir to appoint the hardline ex-soldier, General Ariel Sharon, as Defence Minister in a new coalition.

On Saturday, shopkeepers in the occupied territories and east Jerusalem began a three-day strike in protest against an incident at a funeral in Nablus on Friday when Israeli troops opened fire on demonstrators, killing five Arabs and wounding over 25 others.

Mr Rabin declared that Israeli troops would use "an iron fist" to quell the intifada which has so far claimed 350 lives, all but 13 of them Palestinian Arabs.

Yesterday an Arab youth was shot dead near Tulkarm when he tried to throw a concrete block from a rooftop at Israeli forces, Israeli radio reported.

Two more Arab youths were

killed and several wounded at Shaabara camp in Gaza when troops opened fire on stone-throwers, the Army said. In Haifa, an attempt was made to set a synagogue on fire in apparent retaliation for an earlier arson attack on a local mosque.

The Chief Rabbi in Haifa said it would be a serious matter if all holy places in Israel had to be guarded. The Palestinian strike has all but closed down Bethlehem, which is on the West Bank, and Christmas celebrations are expected to be low-key.

"I am afraid there is not much peace and good will about this Christmas season," one Western diplomat here said.

At the weekend, Mr Shamir accused Washington of accepting the principle of a Palestinian state alongside Israel and said Washington's move was "a very serious test" for Israeli-American relations.

He said the US had fought against terrorism, yet was in contact with "the organization that is the standard-bearer of world terror and Israel's most extreme enemy".

## WORLD ROUNDUP

# Hopes fade of Waite release

West Beirut — Hopes for the early release of Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, and other foreign hostages held in Lebanon faded dramatically at the weekend after the country's most influential Shia Muslim leader said he had given up efforts on their behalf because of a total lack of progress (Juan Carlos Gumucio writes).

Brief remarks to Beirut's al-Liwa newspaper by Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, regarded as the spiritual guide of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God), were published 24 hours after the Christian Voice of Lebanon radio station said it had obtained information that two Westerners held hostage would be freed before Christmas.

GENEVA: Mr Peter Winkler, the Swiss International Red Cross delegate, returned home yesterday after his release in Lebanon on Friday from a month's captivity at the hands of an unidentified dissident Palestinian group.

## Tibetans in protest

Peking — More than 70 Tibetan students marched through central Peking yesterday in protest at the shooting of at least one Tibetan by police in Lhasa last week (Catherine Sampson writes). According to the official news agency Xinhua, they were "dissuaded" by police from demonstrating in Tiananmen Square. The students had not applied to the police for permission to stage a demonstration, but there were no reports of arrests, and they were taken back to their college in buses laid on by the authorities. A foreign journalist was held by police for two hours, but not arrested.

## Fraud with no regrets

Washington — Mr Lyndon LaRouche, aged 66, the maverick political extremist found guilty on Friday of 13 counts of mail fraud, denounced his conviction as "gross, disgusting, obscene miscarriage of justice", and said he felt no remorse for swindling about £18 million out of investors (Michael Binyon writes). "Why should I?" he said at a news conference. "I didn't do anything wrong." The trial was "an effort by the Government to kill him" once he was in jail. Mr LaRouche faces a maximum of 65 years in prison and \$3.2 million in fines. Six associates face lesser penalties.

# Cubans come marching home to mixed feelings

From Charles Bremner, Havana

There were no evident celebrations in Havana over the weekend at the impending return of 50,000 servicemen from the African conflict.

News of the Brazzaville accords with Angola and South Africa was relegated to a brief official agency dispatch in *Granma* and the other newspapers.

Despite the presence of President Dos Santos of Angola in Havana to thank the Cubans for their 14 years of "internationalist" military help, bringing the boys home is at best a mixed blessing for President Castro.

Government officials have been emphasizing the withdrawal as the satisfying conclusion to a painful but necessary mission. "It is a good thing," said one Foreign Ministry man. "I don't think it's a victory for Cuba, it's a victory for humanity."

A tribute by President Castro to the homecoming troops was relegated on Friday to the end of a report on a plenary session of the Communist Party Central Committee. He said: "Thus one of the most glorious pages in our history has come to a successful end."

Many non-Communist diplomats here see the withdrawal as the result of Soviet pressure on a reluctant President Castro. The end to an African adventure launched under Brezhnev is more the result of President Gorbachov's understanding with the Americans to curb regional wars than the fruit of Cuban achievement.

From several points of view, including the maintenance of President Castro's influence on the world stage, it has not hurt Cuba to maintain its expeditionary armies. "Gorbachov wants them out and

Castro's going," but he was not happy, one diplomat said.

Private citizens say word of the accord spread quietly in Cuba, stirring widespread relief, particularly among parents, that the country was ending its long, far-flung engagement. "It was so remote, so far," said a waitress in an Havana coffee bar.

The consensus among diplomats is that popular resentment has mounted as the foreign adventures have dragged on. According to General Rafael Del Pino, a senior officer who defected to the US last year, many Cuban field commanders saw Angola as a "dead-end street". But at the same time, Cubans appear to take pride in what they are encouraged to believe is their part in a morally just crusade against "imperialism", a cause they are told enjoys widespread international admiration.

Until President Castro suddenly

hailed the triumph of Cuban arms this year, little was known of the foreign war. Officially, casualties were no higher than 1,000 among the 300,000 troops who had seen service in Angola and most of those were said to be the result of accidents and disease. Foreign estimates put casualties higher but not a great deal.

Service in Angola or Ethiopia, where there are still an estimated 10,000 Cubans, is seen as a route to success in other fields. Returning veterans are guaranteed priority in everything from obtaining housing to good jobs.

For the professional classes, "internationalist" service on the curriculum vitae is often the key to prestigious careers and foreign travel. For Cuban girls, the best catch is a veteran of the Africa campaign.

Above all, the "heroic" Cuban involvement in foreign causes has

served a crucial role at a time of deepening domestic economic crisis. Along with the aggressive rhetoric of the Reagan Administration, it has furnished the background for the country's constant war footing. Shortages of everything from local fruits to meat, consumer goods and fish can be pinned on the need to secure the revolution from imminent Yankee invasion at home and from imperialism abroad in the Third World.

War slogans abound in the colourful shabbiness of Havana. "Fatherland or Death" says the sign over a cinema. "In war or peace, communications must go through," says the slogan over the Telephones and Telegraph Ministry.

All this will be a little harder to sustain now that Moscow has lost its interest in bringing Marx to the African masses.

It could become harder still if the Bush Administration drops some of

## Namibia pact is setback for ANC

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

National Congress on its territory. Security sources believe this will be a severe setback for the ANC, if Mandela keeps his part of the bargain.

Neither side has publicly confirmed the deal, but an authoritative source said it effectively committed them to ending support for any action or movement directed against the other's security.

Preterea now anticipates an intensified war of attrition in Angola, unless the MPLA Government enters a dialogue with Unita.

• Troops kill police: Two South

African policemen were shot dead by white troops in Soweto, outside Johannesburg, when they walked into an ambush set for ANC guerrillas, it was disclosed yesterday (Ray Kennedy writes).

A black police informer was also killed and a third policeman seriously wounded in a gun battle between the troops and the police.

The incident occurred last Wednesday but has not been officially reported. The police and the South African Defence Force confirmed it to reporters at the weekend.

President Reagan's ferocious hostility towards Cuba and starts accepting some of Dr Castro's overtures of recent months. But Mr George Bush has not sparked optimism here with a recent description of the island as a "corrupt Communist regime".

Next to come home, say the experts, will probably be the Ethiopian contingent. Moscow is said to have privately warned President Mengistu that he had one last chance to defeat the Eritrean and Tigre rebels and that Soviet aid would be cut drastically should he fail.

The Kremlin has provided the logistics and support for the Cuban forces everywhere. Angola was the most ambitious venture, but they have also been stationed in Ghana, Algeria, Guinea-Bissau, South Yemen, Syria and elsewhere.

According to the Pentagon, there are now 250,000 Cubans under arms and another 1.5 million in militia units. Only Brazil, with 13 times Cuba's population, has comparable forces. Another comparison the Pentagon likes to make is with Canada, which has 114 battle tanks. The Cubans maintain 950. "Cuba has developed an extraordinary capacity to influence events in distant lands," said a State Department report this year.

Cuba is expected to keep its several thousand personnel in Nicaragua for some time to come, despite Washington's abandonment of the Contras.

In a conflict close to home, the Cubans are less costly to Moscow, both politically and economically, and they provide useful visible evidence of Soviet support at a time when Moscow's largess is likely to turn into a fond memory.



# Moscow turns to rebuilding towns devastated by Armenian quake

From Mary Dejevsky  
Moscow

Despite assurances given at the end of last week that the rescue work in Armenia would continue for another 10 days, the Politburo commission directing the relief effort has announced that the first stage of the operation has ended, and the second stage — rebuilding and repairing the devastated areas — is to begin.

The authorities are quoting forecasts of a sharp drop in temperature in the region in an attempt to persuade women, children and elderly people to be evacuated. Glowing accounts of the facilities that await them in rest homes, sanatoriums and children's holiday homes are appearing in the press and on television. Although 40,000 people are said to have been evacuated already, there are also reports that relatives of victims have insisted on staying until the ruins of their houses have been excavated.

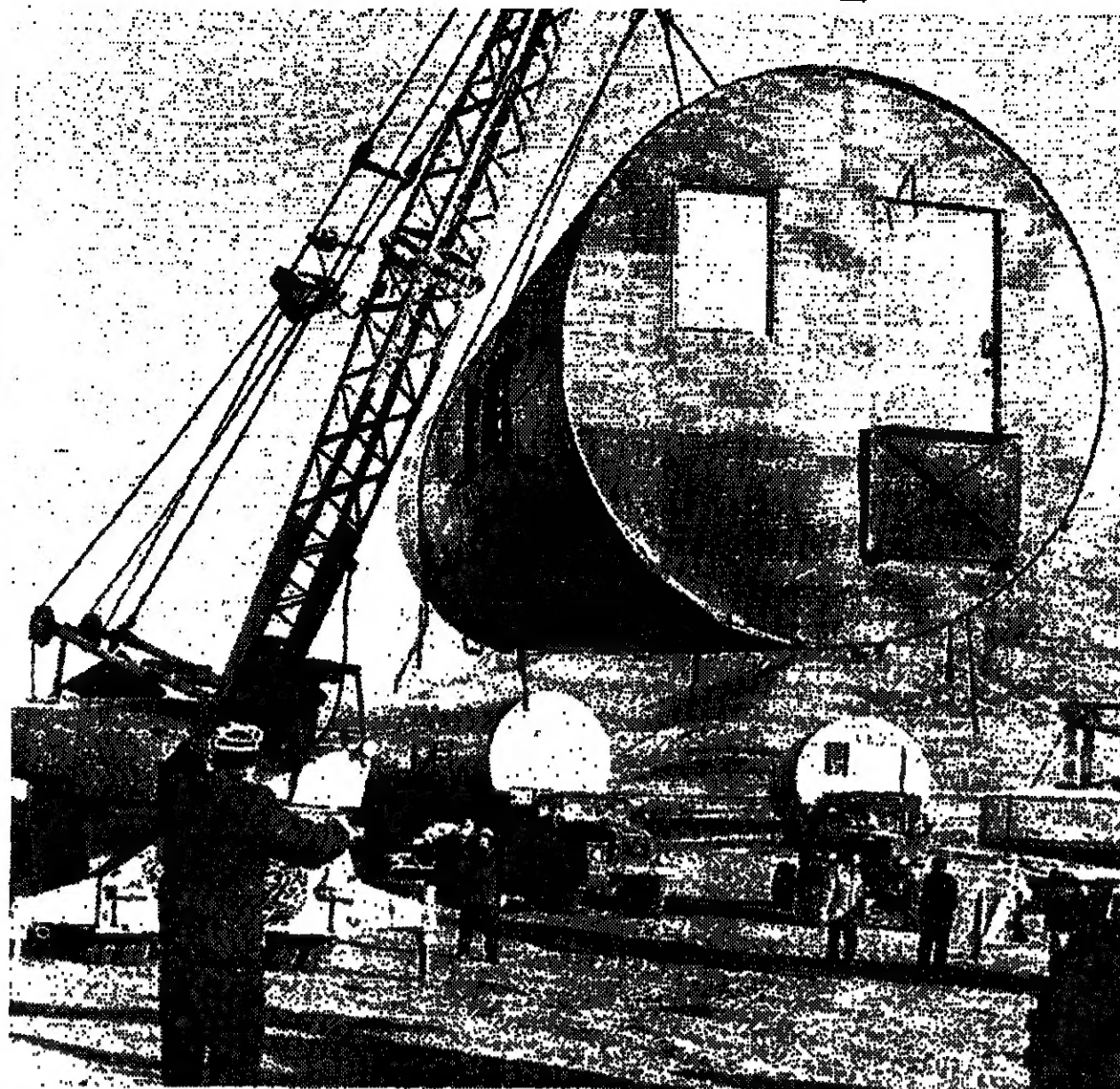
On Saturday only one person was found alive, in

Rome (Reuters) — The Pope called for special prayers this Christmas for the children made homeless by the earthquake in Armenia when he blessed crib figures of the infant Jesus in St Peter's Square yesterday. He told hundreds of local school children to pray "for the children who have lost their homes".

Leninakan, and 89 more bodies were recovered. The total number of dead now stands at 23,390. The figure includes 30 people who died in hospital of their injuries. More than 15,000 have been rescued alive. The official estimate of the death toll remains 55,000.

As international rescue teams begin to leave the disaster zone, to be replaced by specialist investigators and seismologists, the Soviet authorities are becoming increasingly fulsome in their praise of foreign help. Newspaper reports have also remarked on the superiority of foreign equipment, including ultrasound devices, and on their trained dogs — the Soviet Union has only mountain rescue dogs.

On Saturday, the head of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies was



The first of 50 prefabricated homes being unloaded at Spitak. They will house construction workers rebuilding the town.

received by the Soviet Prime Minister, Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, in his capacity as head of the Politburo commission, to convey Soviet thanks.

The previous day, Mr Ryzhkov had taken a Foreign Ministry official to task for the lack of reception facilities, interpreters and co-ordination in the disaster area and accused ministry officials of sitting comfortably in Moscow compiling statistics when they should have been in Armenia. As a result, he said, some foreign aid teams were returning home with heavy hearts, not because there was nothing they could do, but

because they knew they could have done more.

The Deputy Foreign Minister in charge of the ministry's efforts, Mr Valentin Nikiforov, responded to the criticism the following day on TV from his "operational headquarters" in Moscow.

Surrounded by young people inputting data into computer terminals, Mr Nikiforov said his office was logging all foreign aid teams to the country and recording what they brought and what their requirements were. He said the reason only 15 interpreters were sent to Armenia in the first instance was

because only 15 had been asked for.

The greater prominence being given in the Soviet media to Moscow's gratitude for foreign assistance, combined with Mr Nikiforov's television appearance, suggests that Mr Ryzhkov's criticism touched a sensitive nerve.

Saturday was a normal working day in Moscow and other cities, with the proceeds going to the disaster fund.

PEKING: Nearly one million victims of an earthquake that devastated a remote area of south-west China early last month still needed clothes, the

People's Daily said yesterday (Reuters reports).

The party newspaper said that despite a massive relief effort more than 900,000 people in the quake-hit region near the Burmese border urgently needed clothes. Nearly all the two and a half million victims of the November 6 quake were dependent on state handouts for grain.

The quake, registering 7.6 on the Richter scale, killed at least 730 people and destroyed about 400,000 houses.

Domestic and foreign relief efforts have sent about £5 million, 32,500 tonnes of grain and much medical equipment.

## Japanese-Soviet relations Shevardnadze visit offers Tokyo chance of thaw

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

The current visit to Tokyo by Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, will — if all goes well — result in a date being set for President Gorbachov to follow next year and become the first Soviet leader to set foot in Japan.

The chances of success are still far from rosy. Mr Shevardnadze begins talking this morning to Mr Sosuke Uno, his Japanese counterpart, and has until Wednesday to find a way to quicken the tempo of their grudging waltz to peace. The two sides, after glowering at each other for 43 years over their rival claims to a set of tiny islands off northern Japan, now in Soviet possession, are hopeful but cautious. Both are uncertain which country has the stronger card to play.

Moscow is desperate for a helping hand from Tokyo, especially in loans and co-operation in developing the wastelands of Siberia. More broadly, Mr Gorbachov is keen to advance the Soviet Union as a Pacific power. Since his speech at the Far Eastern port of Vladivostok in July, 1986, he has made it clear that he wants to woo Asia and hinted at a future visit to Japan.

Japan, meanwhile, is beginning to look and feel like the odd man out as the only main capitalist power maintaining unfriendly relations with Moscow. Officially, the reason it refuses to thaw and laughs at the idea of signing a peace treaty is the Kremlin's refusal to hand back the four islands in the Kuriles which it has occupied since 1945 — or even to acknowledge that their ownership is unresolved.

But beneath the surface, what irks Tokyo is that it feels snubbed. It resents the way that the Soviet Union treats it as a second-class power despite the economic and political strides it has made.

Japan knows that, finally, it has a big enough carrot to lure the Kremlin. Certainly, it wants to do more business with the Soviet Union and it is slightly anxious that aggressive South Korea might plunder the Russian market first. But Tokyo also feels that Mr Gorbachov's need for cash and technology means that

Moscow needs Japan more than Japan needs Moscow.

Tokyo has waged this battle by proxy as an argument over who owns the disputed islands in the Kuriles. Officials in Moscow and Tokyo agree that a swift solution is unlikely.

But if Mr Shevardnadze and Mr Uno can clothe the dispute in a new, slightly fuzzier vocabulary, that might be enough to enable both of them to move forward an inch without losing face.

Tokyo thinks that it has found a curious means of making progress in another long-standing dispute over a treaty with the Soviet Union on migratory birds. The pact was agreed in 1973 but has not been ratified because two

World War.

Mr Takashita, with his Government's popularity at an all-time low, might be grateful for a feather to stick in his cap.

Moscow has given little indication of being ready to give way. It has important military installations on the Sea of Okhotsk, which is shielded by the disputed islands. Moscow also fears that, if it concedes the islands to Japan, territorial demands from other nations on its border might follow.

While the Japanese are hoping for progress, they are not holding their breath. But they are presuming that Mr Gorbachov would see little point in sending Mr Shevardnadze to Tokyo empty-handed.

MOSCOW: The extensive Soviet comment before the visit has been only modestly hopeful (Mary Dejevsky writes).

The potential for improving Soviet-Japanese relations has been recognized by Moscow ever since Mr Gorbachov came to power. To the Soviet Union, co-operation seems to make eminent practical sense.

Japan is a rich and densely populated country with inadequate natural resources which looks west towards the mineral-rich but underdeveloped wastes of eastern Siberia.

If the Japanese were to provide technical expertise and manpower to exploit the otherwise barren area, they could expect coal, oil and timber in return. Recently, the Kremlin has mooted the possibility of a free-trade zone in the Far East. Changes in Foreign Ministry personnel have been hailed as attempts to start afresh with Japan.

Each Soviet proposal on improved security for the Pacific region has been disregarded by Japan. It wants only one thing from Moscow — the return of the four northern Kurile islands.

Mr Gorbachov has made small concessions. One of the first things he did was to reinstate the privilege, in abeyance for four years, whereby Japanese with relatives buried on the islands could visit the graves without visas. But it is highly doubtful whether he could make any territorial concessions.

## Vanuatu leader's rival held

By Christopher Morris

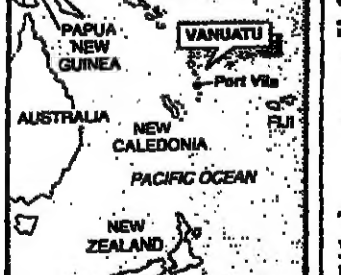
In an attempt to avert bloodshed in the South Pacific island state of Vanuatu, troops loyal to the Prime Minister, Father Walter Lini, last night arrested his arch-rival, Mr Barak Sope, who had been sworn in as the new Prime Minister only hours earlier.

Mr Sope is being held under heavy guard in the capital, Port Vila, with several of his supporters who were also arrested in police raids.

He has been locked in a bitter power struggle with Father Lini ever since he was dismissed as Minister of Tourism earlier this year.

Whether Mr Sope's arrest now takes the heat out of the constitutional crisis seems unlikely since his supporters, who are heavily armed, have vowed to free him and restore him as Prime Minister after his appointment yesterday by President George Sokomanu.

For a few hours Vanuatu had two Prime Ministers — Mr Sope and Father Lini, who



was elected last year by an overwhelming vote but was supposedly dismissed by President Sokomanu when the President announced on Friday that he had dissolved Parliament. Father Lini defied the President's orders and immediately reconvened Parliament, claiming the President had no constitutional power to do this and accusing him of "a disgraceful attempt at a political coup".

The key to Vanuatu's power struggle now lies with the security forces. So far they have remained loyal to Father Lini. But Mr Sope says he will demand their allegiance or set up his own police force and, if necessary, call for foreign military intervention from other South Pacific countries, including Australia.

Among Mr Sope's supporters are at least 150 men who have undergone military training in Libya. One of the main Australian and New Zealand fears is that Colonel (Gaddafi) will respond to calls for help from Mr Sope.

## Sino-Indian summit

### Border tensions linger

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

When Mr Rajiv Gandhi arrives in Peking tomorrow for a summit meeting, he will be the first Indian Prime Minister to make such a visit, since his grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru, 34 years ago.

The long absence is indicative of more than 20 years of strained Sino-Indian relations, which the summit appears unlikely to resolve.

Although both sides have expressed hopes for a positive impact on bilateral relations, both see little headway on the main bone of contention — the 2,400-mile common border.

"Both sides have agreed that there is a traditional customary boundary, but there is discussion on where it lies," said a senior Indian diplomat in Peking this week.

He emphasized that, although there had been some border incidents in the 1960s, there have been no bloodshed for several years, and he described the situation as "relatively calm".

"It is a very complicated issue left over from history," said Mr Li Zhaoxing, a Foreign Ministry spokesman.

"Time and patience are required," he said. "We cannot achieve a solution through one visit. The problem is complicated. It has been with us for some time."

Border tensions grew in the 1950s, and two years after Chou En-lai visited Delhi in 1960, India and China fought a brief border war. The dispute dates back to the line drawn by a British official in 1914 — the McMahon line, which is not accepted by India but still viewed by India as the basis for a solution.

China claims 34,700 square miles of Arunachal Pradesh state, while India claims 14,500 square miles along the Indian state of Kashmir in the west, seized by China in 1962.

The Indian diplomat played down the importance of the effects of improved Sino-Soviet relations on Sino-Indian relations, saying the latter have "a logic of their own". However, expectations of a Sino-Soviet summit to take place in the first half of next year provide the ideal background for this week's

talks, given India's friendly relations with the Soviet Union.

Regional issues, including Cambodia, will feature high on the agenda. India never condemned the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, in contrast to China and Pakistan, but Soviet troop withdrawals have appeased Chinese anger. Meanwhile, Miss Benazir Bhutto, the new Prime Minister of Pakistan, has chosen China for her second foreign visit early next year.

India also has welcomed Miss Bhutto's electoral success, expressing hopes that "the return of democracy" will mean an improvement in relations between India and Pakistan.

Tibet will be an embarrassment to both China and India in their summit meeting. The Dalai Lama, the Tibetan exiled leader, lives in India, which tolerates his exile in Dharamsala, the existence of which is a thorn in the flesh of the Chinese. There are an estimated 100,000 Tibetan refugees in India.

## Disquiet as US judge sends mother to jail indefinitely

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

American legal experts are watching with mounting incredulity the case of a mother who has been sentenced to prison indefinitely for refusing to reveal the whereabouts of her young daughter.

Dr Elizabeth Morgan, a leading plastic surgeon, has spent 15 months in jail and faces certain to break the US record of 16 months' incarceration for civil contempt of court.

She sent her daughter, Hilary, into hiding after Judge Herbert Dixon, of the Washington Superior Court, ordered that the child be sent on a two-week visit to her father, Dr Eric Foretich.

Mrs Morgan alleged that Dr Foretich, her former husband, had sexually abused the child, who was aged five when she disappeared. The judge said that there was no convincing evidence to support the allegation.

As soon as the order was made, both the child and Dr Morgan's elderly parents disappeared, and have not been heard of since. At one time there were rumours that they

had moved to England. In the latest hearing last Friday, Mrs Morgan's lawyer clashed angrily with the judge, who again rejected an application for freedom, saying that she would remain in jail indefinitely until she revealed the whereabouts of the child.

He declared three times that "the coercion has only just begun". As he spoke, Mrs Morgan stared hard at him, while biting down on her tongue. Relatives snapped at one another, lawyers exchanged bitter remarks and Mrs Morgan headed back to jail, declaring that she would never relent.

Judge Dixon said that her imprisonment could go on and on. "It could be a month, it could be a year, it could be more than that."

Mrs Morgan's lawyer, Mr Stephen Sachs, said of the judge: "I heard the opinion of a man who has personalized this matter, who was angry at Dr Morgan because she dared defy him. I think what we saw here today was the ugly face of the law."

One of Mrs Morgan's

supporters blazed: "The wrong one's in jail." Her former husband's parents spun round and replied loudly: "Trash."

The judge said that his decision was based on "a conscientious consideration of the circumstances, including evidence that had not been made public". He added that it was "more probable than not that Dr Morgan believes she can undermine court orders by the mere allegation of such an offence as repulsive as child abuse."

In civil contempt cases, a judge may use coercion but not punishment to try to enforce a court order.

"As each day passes, the waste of Dr Morgan's personal and professional accomplishments will become more and more apparent," he said.

With each passing day she would be deprived "of the opportunity to comfort her child after a scrape or a fall".

She would not be able to share Christmas or a birthday — and there was always the possibility that the child would be found and placed under the court's jurisdiction.

## Threat to English in Quebec

Ottawa — Mr Robert Bourassa, the Premier of Quebec, was under mounting pressure to introduce legislation today to bar the use of English on outdoor commercial signs in the mainly French-speaking province (John Best writes).

At the weekend the executive of Mr Bourassa's ruling Liberal Party, meeting in Quebec City, voted overwhelmingly in favour of permitting only French-language signs outside shops.

### Tigers kill

Sydney — Miss Victoria Scrivener, a 33-year-old woman keeper, died in hospital yesterday after being mauled by two tigers at Sydney's Taronga Park Zoo when she attempted to separate the mother from her cubs.

### Minibus crash

Nairobi (Reuters) — Thirteen people died and six were admitted to hospital after a packed minibus and a lorry collided near Nairobi, 40 miles north-west of Nairobi.

### 19th hole

Sava (Reuters) — The Fiji Prime Minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, was admitted to hospital when he fainted after a three-hour round of golf, apparently suffering from exhaustion.

### Editor out

Nairobi (Reuters) — The South African-born Swaziland newspaper editor, Mr Johnny Maseki, departed from Lesotho after publishing articles alleging government corruption, has arrived in Nairobi.

### Ferry sinks

Manila (Reuters) — Two passengers swam to safety but 51 people were missing after a small ferryboat sank off Mindoro island in the central Philippines.

### Talks fail

Agartala, India (Reuters) — Talks to end a 15-year guerrilla war that has killed 1,500 people in southern Bangladesh broke down when Bangladeshi military commanders refused to make concessions, according to a rebel spokesman.

### Mice battle

Sofia (Reuters) — Bulgaria's authorities have offered a reward of 10 days' holiday to anyone willing to wage a barehanded battle without using poison against hordes of fieldmice threatening crops.

## Rebel curfew bites on eve of Sri Lanka election

From Edward Gorman  
Colombo

The Sri Lankan Government said yesterday that people who try to prevent voting in today's presidential election could face the death penalty, and it authorized security officers to use "maximum force" to ensure the freedom to vote.

A government statement said the minimum sentence for attempts to force people not to vote would be 10 years in jail, with death as the maximum penalty. The security forces have been directed to enforce this regulation using maximum force where necessary, it said.

The warning came as a two-day curfew imposed by the extremist Sinhalese People's Liberation Front (JVP) in a bid to disrupt the elections left the capital and many

towns and villages deserted. But political killings continued, claiming at least 20 victims yesterday in various parts of the country.

Today marks the second time in their 40-year independent history that Sri Lankans go to the polls to elect a new President. With the result expected tomorrow afternoon, the election marks the beginning of a two-month transition period likely to shape the island's future development.

Tomorrow Parliament will be dissolved in preparation for general elections to a new assembly on February 15. In the intervening period, a caretaker government under the new President will take over.

The presidential election comes after a period of growing instability and violence which has claimed hundreds of lives during what

outgoing President Jayewardene readily admits is the most serious crisis his country has faced.

A day before voting the contest remained wide open with both the main candidates, Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa, aged 62, the Prime Minister, for the ruling United National Party, and opposition leader, Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike, aged 72, for the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, considered to have a good chance. The Prime Minister, who a month ago looked a certain loser, is expected to benefit from a low turnout. In past presidential and general elections, turnout has been particularly high, averaging about 83 per cent. But fears of intimidation and partisan security measures by the police and Army could reduce it significantly.

Mrs Bandaranaike, whose cam-

paign has placed emphasis on persuading people to come out and vote in recent weeks, is confident she will win, if turnout reaches 60 per cent. The result is expected to be close, however, and the third candidate, Mr Oesie Abeyagunasekera, for the Sri Lanka People's Party (SLMP), could hold the balance.

The campaign has been fought vigorously by all three candidates, who have kept to a hectic schedule of village rallies throughout the country over the past two months. With personalities and mud-slinging dominating election speeches, there is, in fact, little to choose on policies between the two main contenders.

Both have pledged ambitious plans to cure unemployment and economic decline and both want Indian peace-keeping troops to leave. Perhaps most important,

neither has offered any specific remedies to the country's most urgent problem, the JVP insurgency.

The principal area of disagreement and arguably the decisive issue is the record of President Jayewardene's 11-year-old Government. Both main candidates claim they can end the Tamil separatist insurgency; Mrs Bandaranaike has made the most of increasingly unpopular emergency rule legislation and the Government's sharply deteriorating record on human rights.

The Prime Minister has sought to highlight dramatic economic growth until 1983. Mrs Bandaranaike's long and hard years in opposition may give her the edge. She has an emotional appeal which many will find hard to resist.

Leading article, page 11

### MR RANASINGHE PREMADASA

Prime Minister, aged 62, standing for ruling United National Party. Born in to the lowest *Varney* or washerman's cast, he is first UNP leader not drawn from elite *Gowry* caste. Has made the most of his origins to appeal to poor. He says: "I am a humble servant of the common man. Mine shall not be a government of arrogance."

- Elected he pledges to:
  - Replace Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord with friendship treaty and send Indian peace-keeping force home;
  - De-link recently merged North and Eastern provinces;
  - Restore peace and enforce discipline, with programmes to combat corruption and deteriorating security;
  - Continue existing Action Plan on Poverty Alleviation with ambitious proposals to distribute 2,500 rupees (about \$44) to poor families for 24-month period;
  - Continue free-market economy with emphasis on foreign investment, manufacturing, employment and credit schemes.

### MRS SIRIMA BANDARANAIKE

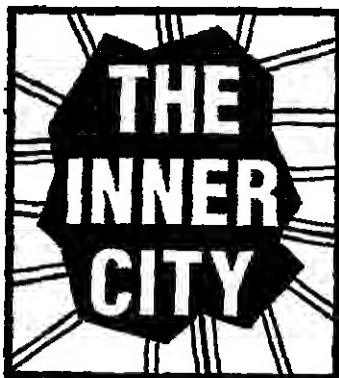
Aged 72, main opposition candidate at head of Sri Lanka Freedom Party and five-party coalition of smaller groups, the Democratic People's Alliance. She says: "What you have to decide is whether you want to vote for Mr Premadasa and continue to live in fear or vote for me to restore law, order and peace."

- Elected she pledges to:
  - Abolish executive presidency and new provincial councils;
  - Enact bill of rights, disband all paramilitary groups, lift state of emergency, and institute human rights commission;
  - Abrogate Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord and request Indian peace-keeping force to leave;
  - Propose devolved system of government for Tamil and Muslim minorities in the North and East under new local bodies;
  - Institute a mixed economy, with programmes for growth in employment and industrial and agricultural production;
  - Create equality commission for women.



## SPECTRUM

## Introducing the thinner city



PART 1

The 'inner city' is an idea, not a place. The words, however, have become a euphemism for the urban poor.

But our cities are

thinning out as people change the way they work and live. Colin Ward examines whether poor people in the city will benefit from the changes

In childhood we acquire a mental picture of the city as a finite thing, enclosed by that most powerful of images, a wall, beyond which lies the wilderness. This symbolism was accurate in medieval times. It was still understandable when the steam engine concentrated power and populations and created an urban proletariat. It has been woefully inadequate all through the 20th century, when the city exploded.

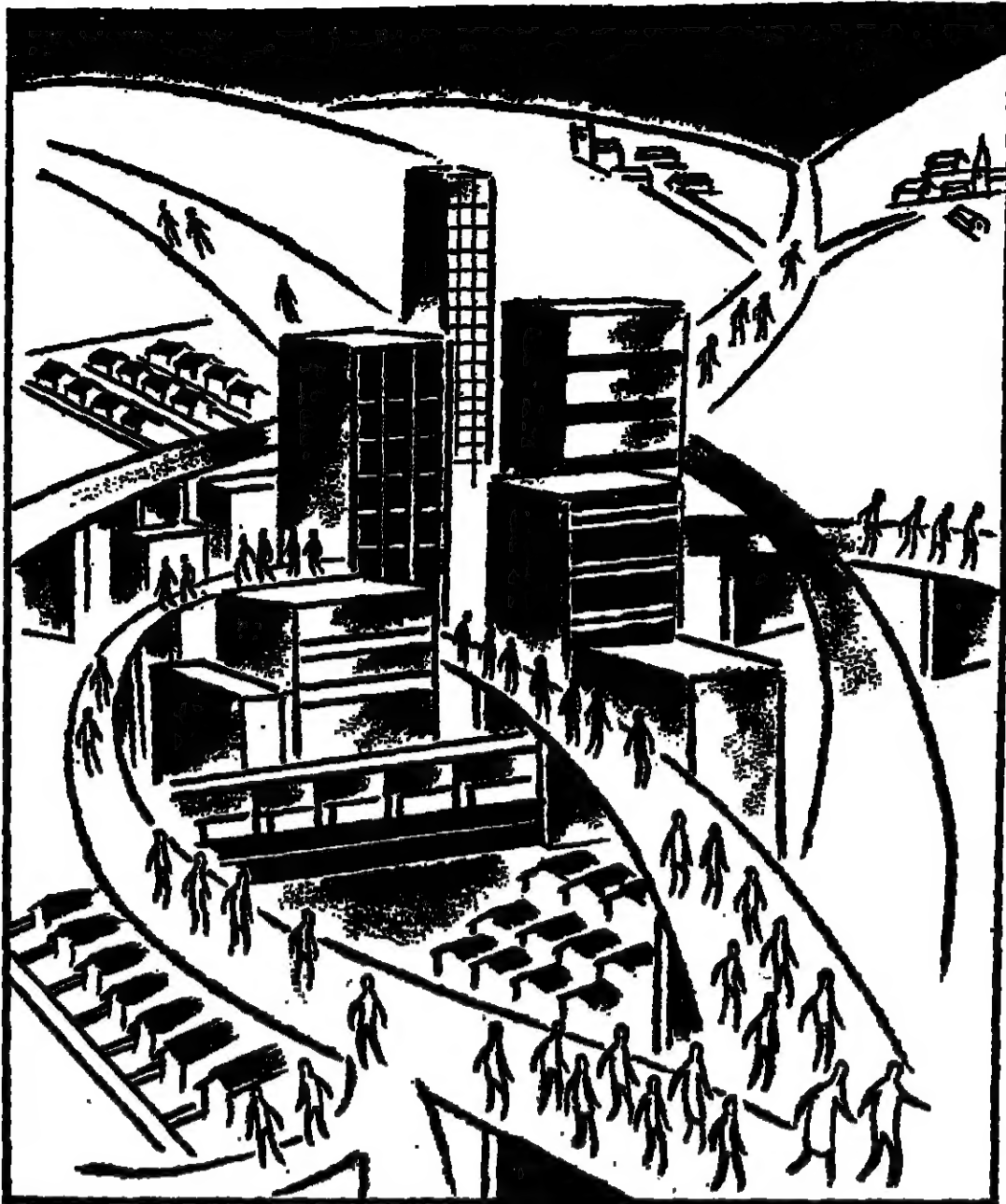
Political, administrative and fiscal boundaries have seldom recognized this fact, yet it is obvious in our personal lives. Most British or American families live in suburbs, and an increasing number live not in the suburbs of the 19th-century cities, but in those of small towns in the hinterland. The dispersal has not only made the Victorian city obsolete, it has also pushed into history the giant factory, the assembly line, even the huge office full of typists and filing clerks. Patterns not only of settlement but of work itself are reverting to those which were apparent before the industrial revolution changed everything.

A century ago, elected to the chair of the infant London County Council, Lord Rosebery declared that "I am almost haunted by the awfulness of London". It seemed to him "a tumour, an elephantiasis, sucking into its gorged system half the life and the blood and bone of rural districts". His contemporaries of every political persuasion would all have rejoiced that by the end of the 20th century the problem of the cities had been reduced to manageable proportions, not by political action but

by economic and demographic change. They would simply wonder why it had taken us so long, and why we have failed to cope with what seemed to them a vital issue, that of urban land valuation, which stands in the way of rational policies.

For the very language we use about the "decline" of the cities is misleading, and certainly inaccurate historically. Our cities expanded at a terrifying rate in one short period of urban civilization and at the absolute heyday of their alleged prosperity. When heavy industry was loaded with orders, when Britain was the workshop of the world and when the ports were full of ships and ship-building, cities like London, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle were notorious for their poverty, their overcrowded slums, their terrifying juvenile mortality, crime, prostitution, disease and destitution, as well as for the existence of a savage urban underclass.

Among the Victorian sages who attempted to cope with the horrors of Britain in her heyday, there were at least four with a realistic vision of our own century and that of our children. One, of course, was William Morris, designer and socialist, whose vision of the 21st century was far more subtle and relevant than his interpreters want us to believe. Another was Patrick Geddes, the astonishing Scottish biologist, with his regionalist concept of the future of cities. The third was the geographer and anarchist Peter Kropotkin, who foresaw with remarkable accuracy that the industrial supremacy of Britain and the old manufacturing powers was inevitably to be short-lived and that we should plan



accordingly. The fourth was Ebenezer Howard, inventor and shorthand-writer and father of the garden city idea, who declared in 1904 that "while the age in which we live is the age of the great closely-compacted, overcrowded city, there are already signs, for those who can read them, of a coming change so great and so momentous that the 20th century will be known as the period of the great exodus..."

The trend of census returns both on place of residence and nature of employment all through this century have supported their forecasts of actual changes, at an increasing pace in the last two decades. But of course the ability to join the inevitable decentralization of dwelling and work has been distributed selectively. The importance of the post-war New

**'The 20th century will be known as the period of the great exodus...'**

Town programme was not numerical: it was that it offered the one opportunity for inner-city dwellers to rent new homes (since purchase was beyond their means) in the general outward movement. There is ample evidence that this need, though unmet, still exists. When the inner city is discussed

as a social problem, the description is not used as a geographic expression at all. The phrase does not describe derelict buildings. It is used as a euphemism for the urban poor. The inner city is an idea rather than a place. We insist on using the words as a kind of shorthand for poor people, often indeed for those ethnic minorities for whom poor city districts are, as they had been throughout history, a "zone of transition", a point of entry into the modern urban economy.

But the fact that we use the words inner city to describe the landscape of the poor, anywhere, presents two difficulties. One is that it is adopted in the press and among politicians to describe any area, anywhere, that is perceived as a "problem". The abolition of poverty is a worthy aim, pursued

In industry and commerce there is a concept of stock and flow, referring to the goods that stay on the shelves until needed and those which pass through continually. The same classification is readily applied to the inner city. Spitalfields in London, for example, has for centuries been an area where new arrivals gained their first foothold in the urban economy and their first induction in city ways. They have left their traces in the street names, the architecture and the typical occupations.

Huguenot silk-weavers were followed by the Irish and then by the Jews, the majority of whom arrived in the great influx that followed the pogroms in the Russian Empire. As they in turn moved on, their place has been taken in the last three decades by the Bengalis, working in the same trades, usually in the same buildings.

The evidence from the cities is of a flow, but, growingly, it is perceived as a stock. And this stock is composed, it is thought, of a new urban underclass, believed to consist of people who have never been in gainful employment, who have fallen out of the habit of being useful citizens, and who reproduce themselves in each generation.

It is a very old and persistent idea. A century ago, Charles Booth found that "they degrade whatever they touch, and as individuals are perhaps incapable of improvement; they may be to some extent a necessary evil in every large city". In the 1970s Sir Keith Joseph claimed that mothers in Social Class V were "producing problem

by some people all through history. It is not actually on the agenda of policy-makers in the cities.

But the yardstick by which to judge the failure or success of inner city policies can only be the extent to which they enhance the opportunities, whether in housing, work or education, of poor city-dwellers. Since they are seen as the "problem", only an improvement of their situation can be seen as a solution.

In these terms there are four criteria by which we can assess both accidental trends and deliberate policies in inner city areas:

- Do they help or hinder low-income families in joining the thinning-out process, taken for granted by the more affluent all through this century? Can those who want to, move out?
- Do they encourage "the greening of the city", setting the chance to create the universally desired environment that people leave the city to find?
- Do they assist or obstruct the

children, the future unmarried mothers, delinquents, denizens of our hostels, subnormal educational establishments, prisons, hostels for drifters".

None would deny that children reared in poor families suffer; every comparative index of deprivation shows this to be so. But it is dangerous and socially destructive to categorize the city poor as a self-perpetuating underclass, for several reasons:

• No statistical research supports it.

• It encourages an easy fatalism: nothing can be done about these people — just cordon them off with vigilant policing and ignore them.

• It encourages fear: the underclass consists of young black predatory males, ready at any moment to take revenge on the society that rejects them.

There is a route out of the cruel and complacent stereotype. One is the enjoyable irony that the alleged ghetto culture has made its own inroads into the entertainment industry in music, drama, poetry and dance. Another is the achievement of some poor, young, unemployed inner-city dwellers to make the same transition once they had the opportunity to re-house themselves and gain skills at the same time.

Dependent people abound, inside and outside the inner city. A civilized society can easily provide for their physical needs. What it ignores at its peril is the thirst for personal and social independence: the desire to get out of the stock and into the flow.

expansion of dweller-control in housing?

• Do they provide a fine-grain city with small-scale specialized industry generating every level of work, and the kind of information education that promotes these work opportunities?

**Tomorrow: Cultivating dweller control**

Colin Ward, the author of this series, is the winner of the first Charles Douglas-Rome Memorial Trust Award, instituted to commemorate the Editor of The Times from 1982 to 1985. Ward received the award for research into the revival of Britain's inner cities; he travelled to the United States and Italy as well as throughout Britain, and the resulting book, *Welcome, Thinner City*, from which this series is adapted, will be published by Bedford Square Press in September 1989.

## Knowing where to draw the line...

The man behind the family edition of *The Times Atlas of the World* overcame 'moving' towns and sensitive borders

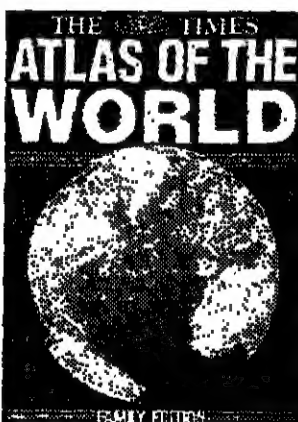
"Life in the mapping world is exceedingly difficult." These words, weighted with a woe-filled truth, sound like a literal translation from Chekhov, or else the proverb of a mountain people condemned to isolation. In fact they come from quite another pole, and express the life-learned certainty of the veteran cartographer, Mr H.A.G. "Bunny" Lewis.

The words are uttered with

a certain jauntiness rather than resignation, for they contain the germ of the challenge that has motivated Lewis through half a century of research. Chairman of the United Nations' Commission on Place Names, he is a survivor of the team set up in the Fifties to consolidate into a single edition the five-volume *The Times Atlas of the World*. His latest project may be

smaller in scale, but it is almost as ambitious, and its completion represented the fulfilment of a long-held dream. It is the family edition of the world-famous work, and is perhaps best described as a tabloid version of that definitive broadsheet.

Yet that is only half the truth, for while this strapping inevitably draws on the knowledge of its encyclopaedic



parent, it is trying to achieve something new, in particular to combine the traditional functions of atlas, gazetteer and "geography book".

This has entailed a sometimes painful boiling-down of the full list of places, based on criteria such as size and

importance. It has also meant the inclusion of an "idiot's guide" to population, religion, currency and the like, and of a geographical dictionary, which will obviate the need to pretend to know the meaning of words such as geodesy.

The work of a map-maker has always involved a rich mix of disciplines, from place name etymology to politics, language and geology, but today, because of the growth of technology in production techniques, it is a far cry from the immediate post-war days.

"We now have maps that can be edited on a screen and then be put on to film by a laser plotter. It means that you can do almost God-like things, like delete whole roads at a stroke," Lewis explains.

In some parts of the world, he continues, notably the Soviet Union, some wholesale revisions of existing topo-

graphy have been necessary. It is this factor above all which Lewis has in mind when he speaks of the difficulties of the cartographer's lot: "Many countries exercise some form of secrecy. The Soviet Union, for example, has for a long time falsified maps so that whole districts are transposed, road patterns altered and towns shifted by 30 kilometres."

He adds: "Many sceptics doubt the truth of this, but in the last month the Soviet government has admitted that these practices started in the early days of the revolution. Some of the maps then were, in effect, wholly fictitious, and these discrepancies were extended to public maps."

"By using other source maps we were able to see where the towns really belonged. There seemed to be a fairly random method underlying

the way in which they were shifted. I recently met a Soviet professor of geography and not even he knew that his country had true maps of a particular region."

The other difficulties which would dog anyone who wanted to chart a contentious world are provided by the boundaries. Lewis and his colleagues tend to observe the status quo: if, for example, an Indian visa is required for entry into the disputed area of the north-east frontier, then that area is encompassed by the Indian boundary, albeit with a broken line.

However, the plate of Antarctica, that most-claimed part of the world, does not show the familiar national slices of cake radiating from the South Pole. Instead there is a great white blank, void of segments. Because of the imminent expiry of the present

Antarctic Treaty, the atlas has chosen to "freeze" the claims. "Whenever an atlas is compiled, there are bound to be some political complaints," Lewis says. "I once got a letter from a man who did not agree with the representation of Chinese boundary changes — at the same time he asked to be sent a free atlas, which I considered a bit cheeky. We really have very little option but to stick to what is official. "Feelings can run very high. When I was in Turkey, for example, if someone in Ankara had discovered that I had a map on which Kurdistan was marked, I would almost certainly have been thrown in jail. No, I would probably have been executed."

Alan Franks

• The Times Atlas of the World Family Edition is published by Times Books at £14.95.

**IT'S NOT JUST SANTA CLAUS WHO DELIVERS GIFTS AT CHRISTMAS.**

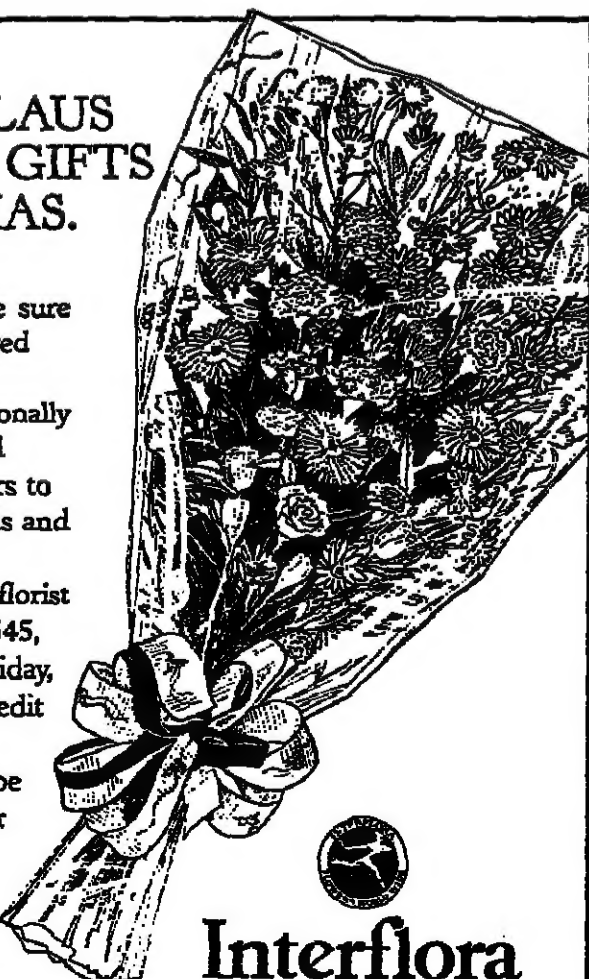
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## Snakes and ladders in Eden

Last night the serpent resigned from the Garden of Eden after advising the general public that the fruit of the tree was both "good for food" and "pleasant to the eye".

Privately, God was said to be cursing the serpent for his actions. One source close to the Almighty said that He had cursed the serpent, "above all cattle, and above every beast of the field" adding, "upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life". But in His letter accepting the serpent's resignation, God expressed "great personal sadness" at the event, though biblical commentators noted that God nowhere mentioned the possibility of a return by the serpent to His team at a later date.

**THOSE LETTERS IN FULL**  
"Dear God, when I asked to see you this morning I told you that, having considered the matter very carefully, I had concluded that I should offer my resignation from the Garden. I think that in the circumstances this is the best course."

"I have been delighted to participate in a scheme to increase public knowledge of what is good and what is bad, and to have been able to do so in such a pleasant and worthwhile setting."

"Since you first appointed me to the Garden, I have served under both Adam and

Eve, offering them my best advice at all times. I would like to put on record my admiration for both of them."

"Finally, my thanks to you personally for all you are doing for Creation, for which you will continue to have my fullest support."

Yours ever, Serpent.  
God wrote in reply: "I have received your letter today with great personal sadness. We shall miss the great energy and enthusiasm you have brought to all your work in the Garden. No one could have worked harder to make man eat of the fruit. We shall continue to work together for everything we both believe in."

Yours ever, God.  
Our Devilry Correspondent writes: The serpent's career has been meteoric. Never one to shun publicity, he had become second only to God in public recognition. At times he seemed lubricated by his own high profile personality, and was always willing to be seen in the least likely places — up a tree, hiding behind an apple, slithering through the grass — if it meant a further dose of publicity. But reliable sources

claim that he was also more subtle than any other beast in the field, and his flair for publicity certainly managed to convince man and woman of what they could or could not eat. Always the most colourful of beasts, we are unlikely to have heard the last of him.

Following the serpent's resignation, the appointment of a sheep to his vacant post has been announced. This is widely believed to be a safe choice. The sheep's position will be taken by a duckbilled platypus, known for his silence on all major issues.

It seems entirely fitting that the first British volunteer to become a subway vigilante or "Guardian Angel" should be a fashion stylist from Kensington. Wearing his blood-red beret with pride, Mr David Edmund has reported that, while out training in New York, he was threatened with a sledgehammer and a knife. Anyone who has made the mistake of venturing into a Kensington Fashion Shop in the past year will see this as very small fry.

These boutiques are now

designed to simulate the worst aspects of the Northern Line. Cavernous and ill-lit, with no windows and constructed of grey concrete, Kensington boutiques are populated by threatening-looking vigilantes or "assistants" who skulk in the corners, eyeing their customers or "victims" with disdainful stares.

Soon, the unwary customer finds himself threatened with the chilling pronouncement, "Can I help you?", and in no time at all he is shut into a "changing-room". The door of this cramped room invariably bursts open when the customer has shed all his clothes. He looks up to find a cackling vigilante saying "Do you need any help?" When the customer emerges from the booth, his trousers fall to the floor. "That's how it's meant to look," he is told. "That'll be £150, please."

No doubt Mr Edmund will put his training as a fashion stylist to good use when he takes to the Tube, only letting innocent muggers go when he has charged them £35 for a pair of designer braces and £62.50 for a pair of designer boxer shorts. But many of us will yearn for the good old days of the cherry British mugger who was quite happy to take your money without also demanding your self-esteem.



**CRAIG BROWN**



city

TO STEREO

children. The first time  
the family saw the  
new television, the  
children were so  
impressed that they  
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magic box. They  
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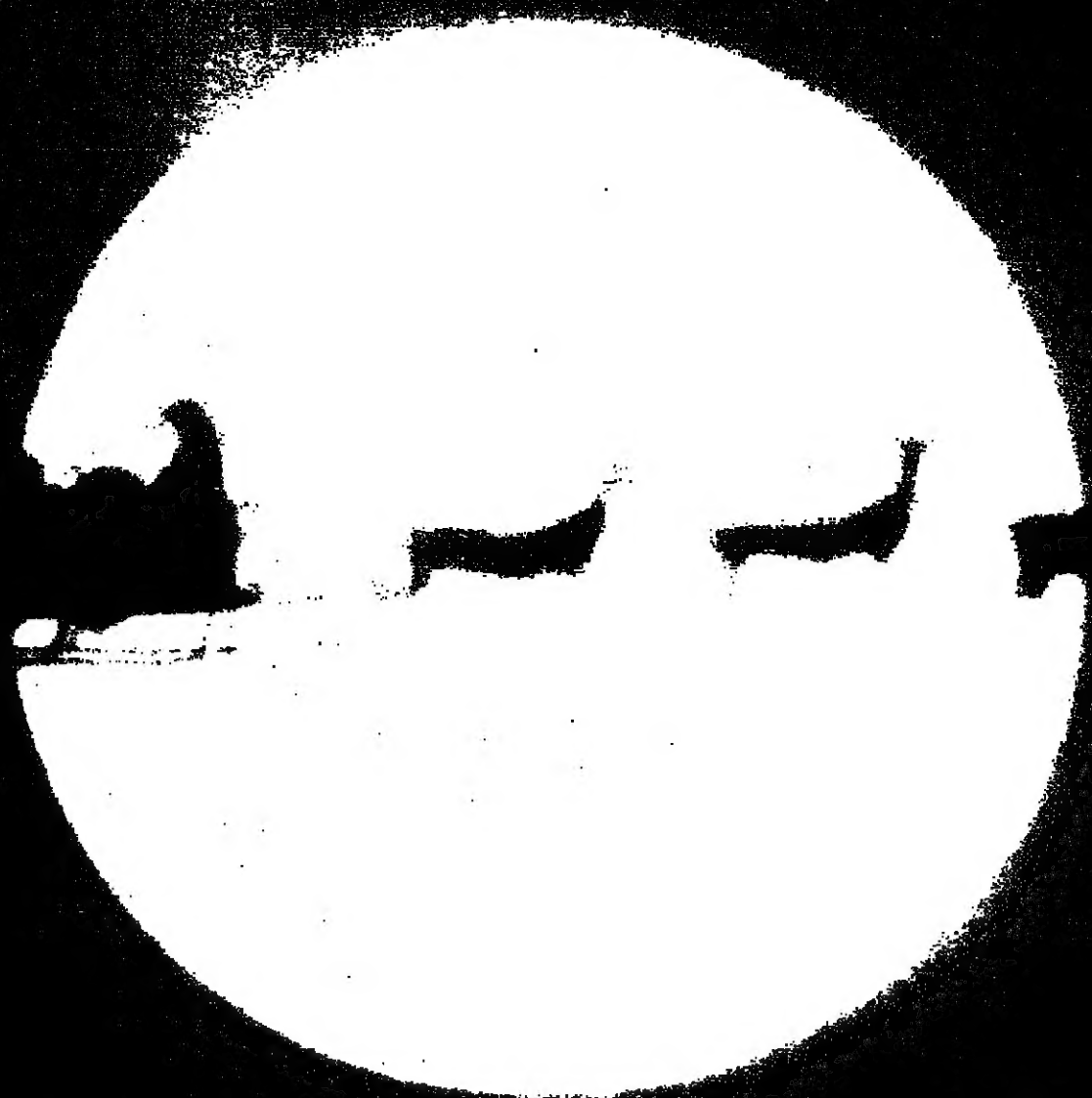
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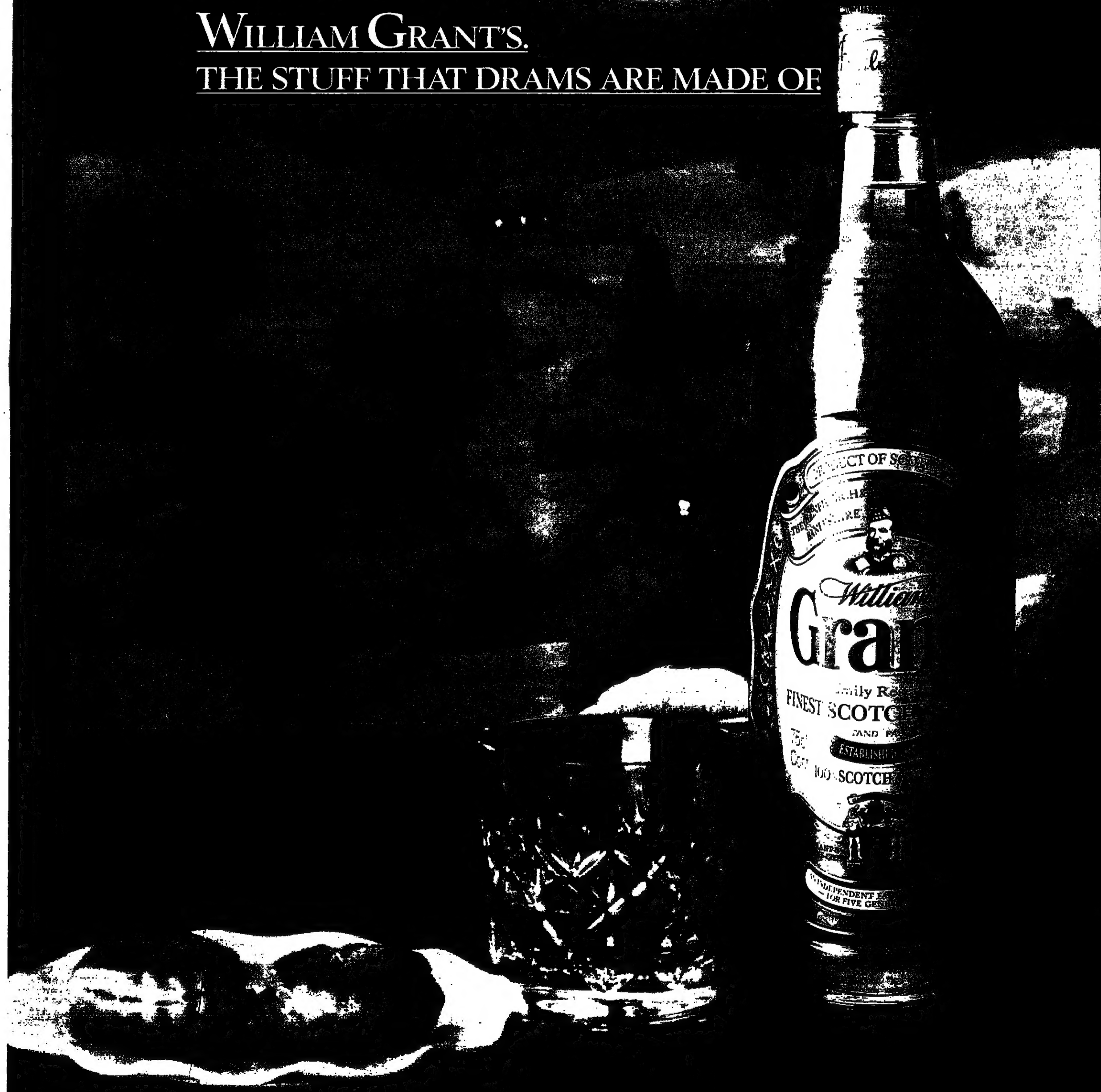
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# TIMES DIARY

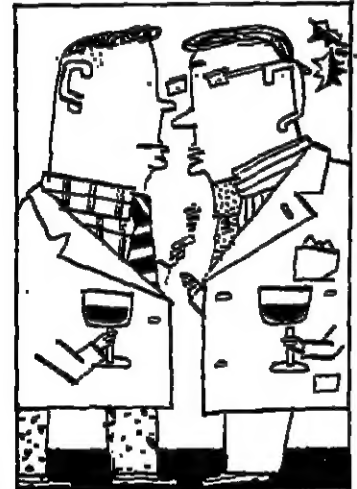
CLEMENT FREUD

The media pages of our national press no longer carry the advertisement for an editor for *Punch*. Early last week a puff of white smoke curled upwards from the habitat of United Newspapers and the appointment of Mr David Thomas, late of the *Mail on Sunday*, was solemnly announced. In accordance with speculations he is between 30 and 40 years of age; he is also over six feet tall and wears glasses, which must be a considerable bonus for the ad made no mention of these attributes. Those of us who love *Punch* and left for our various reasons with him well. As for the magazine, the smile has gone but the Cheshire Cat is still there, albeit a rather shrimpy beast than that of yore. Perhaps it should have its outings at less regular intervals — like fortnightly or monthly.

This diary has done its bit for consumerism in 1988. It disclosed the unheralded weakening of strength and diminution in the size of Pimm's — who went on selling more at the same old price. Fifteen love to the market men. We pointed out that Rose's lime juice was less limey and the fine glass bottle had been replaced by a runcible plastic. Thirty love. Wright's Coal Tar soap has acquired a new shape and a milder fragrance and for the record Wright's Vaporizer is no longer marketed at around £2 a unit. London International have removed it from the shelves and replaced it with a refill kit which will cost you twice as much or leave you with only one clear nostril if you are vaporizing on a fixed budget. And it is not just us humans who are suffering from the relentless advance of science: a Newmarket reader writes that her notoriously unfussy stallions are rejecting "new improved Swoop" which now appeals only to her coat it — and the just picks out the peanuts before swooping off for his next course. Game set and match to the enemy.

My youngest daughter has given up smoking, really — for ever and ever. Went to this brilliant man in Raynes Park and left five hours later having deposited in his bin her cigarettes and her lighter and come away with a new hero — who remains in Raynes Park with her £60. "How did he persuade you?" I asked. It would have taken her four hours to explain so we shall monitor her progress.

BARRY FANTONI



'Her resignation is good in parts'

A reader found himself in a Cambridge hostelry fashioned from a number of Edwardian terrace houses and made into a single entity with half a hundred fire doors. He left his wife in the car to determine the price of accommodation and returned with the just acceptable news that a twin-bedded room with breakfast (bathroom at the end of a corridor) cost £38. "Steep," he writes, "for the outskirts of the city and only two AA stars but we had had a hard day and it was clean." It also had plywood walls and at 3am they were woken by a discussion in the next room of the willingness or otherwise of the local women, which conversation writes the correspondent was not witty, cultivated or mellifluous and was punctuated by noises that would have given an Arab chef profound satisfaction at a job well done.

He slept little thereafter. Breakfast consisted of a bowl of Shreddies, a croissant, tea or coffee and a glass of world-weary orange juice which dreamed wistfully of Florida sunshine, never felt. Without wishing me to think that he had never encountered such fare at the dining of a day (indeed my correspondent has lived in Italy and Provence) he was told that he must pay £1.85 for the privilege of the cooked breakfast he required to sustain him. "It was undistinguished, but then it was an undistinguished but adequate place; mass-produced sausages, two rashers of green bacon, an egg fried too swiftly and a half-steamed tomato finished under a grill." He asked for fried bread. The kitchen was unable to manage fried bread. He ate toast, unwrapping the small parcel of butter and gougling marmalade from its prophylactic container and called for the manager.

My correspondent told this worthy: "I felt the need of a cooked breakfast," adding, "and I have no intention whatsoever of paying for it." He then delivered what may be the most memorable speech made by a *Times* Diary reader in a two-star hostelry in Cambridge in December. "Sir," said he (his head throbbing), "I asked last night the price of bed and breakfast. As an English graduate and author of 14 published books (a specious qualification I grant but it'll do in such circumstances), I beg to inform you that the word 'breakfast' in English means stewed prunes, cereals, porridge, fruit juice, kippers, ham omelette, eggs, bacon, sausages, mushroom, black pudding and kidneys. It does not mean the same as *petit déjeuner*, *prima colazione* or any other term which you are at liberty to use. . . I paid the sum demanded for bed and breakfast. I have taken breakfast. If you wish to challenge my definition of the word I shall readily appear in court where I shall maintain that you are guilty of fraud — if not, after a night such as I have passed, extortion began to applaud and the manager said: 'Well sir, if that is how you feel about it, I doubt, though that a judge would be persuaded, for the dictionary says: breakfast n. that with which a person breaks his fast. No mention anywhere of smoked haddock kedgeree.'

Western reactions to President Gorbachov's UN speech have centred around one question: was he making propaganda or is he sincere in his desire for force reductions? If this "either-or" question continues to dominate debate, both the quality of our debate and of our security will suffer.

As a dialectical thinker, Gorbachov has yet again presented us with a case of "both-and". He has compelling reasons — economic and strategic — to want force reductions. Yet he also has reason to ensure that the Soviet armed forces do not lose the advantages they enjoy today. His speech to the UN General Assembly brings him closer to these two goals.

The speech also presents us with what should now be the familiar Gorbachov style: pre-empting pressure rather than yielding to it and striking at the least opportune moment for his rivals. From Nato's point of view, the timing could not be worse. European governments, despite public pressure, are summoning up courage to proceed with modernization decisions. US congressmen, engrossed with their budget crisis, are looking for excuses to reduce US troops in Europe. As an accomplished Leninist, Gorbachov understands that retreat can advance one's aim and his concessions can disarm. Even if

we are not disarmed, we may end up enfeebled if we do not understand this ourselves. We should also understand that Gorbachov's initiatives are as well as need. The need, to be sure, is profound. "Marshall plans" from the West will not suffice to revive the Soviet economy. Nor will they suffice to preserve the modernity of the Soviet armed forces. These forces are now firmly embarked upon their third "revolution in military affairs", a revolution dominated by the technologies of the laser, the data processor and the microchip. Gorbachov is intent that this revolution be won, and he knows that without investment it will be lost.

If the 5-million strong Soviet armed forces could be reduced by even 25 per cent, considerable resources would be freed for economic modernization. Reductions could also produce a more proficient army. On the high-tech battlefield, many of today's large formations will become vulnerable targets.

Even before Gorbachov's advent to power, the Soviet armed forces began experimenting with smaller, more mobile and more lethal packages of men and hardware. Far from signifying the abandonment of an offensive strategy, today's force restructuring programme is designed to sustain it in new and more stringent conditions.

With this in mind Gorbachov has every temptation to try to preserve today's relative superiority at lower force levels. Between them, unilateral gestures and arms agreements may modernize Soviet forces under the guise of reducing them. Gorbachov's UN speech is a step along this road. Nothing in the speech precludes modernization. It would be ironic if reductions to 1984 levels forced Nato to abandon modernization programmes which were critical even before that date.

Where will further Soviet reductions come from? Very possibly the Far East. Gorbachov well understands the strategic significance of what

Stalin in an earlier era termed "calm in the East". In 1941, Japanese neutrality enabled Stalin's Far Eastern army to move westwards. In the 1990s, Chinese friendship may enable the Soviets to maintain the striking power of Gorbachov's western armies.

Under these circumstances, it would be a bold optimist who concluded that Gorbachov's cut-backs will compromise Soviet military strategy in Europe. That strategy depends less upon superior numbers than upon an offensive deployment and force structure. Even with deeper reductions in Warsaw Pact forces than Gorbachov has proposed, Nato would have little chance of defeating an attack by conventional means and might need considerable prior warning to defeat it at all.

What then should one make of the Warsaw Pact's adoption of a military doctrine based on the principle of "reasonable sufficiency"? The obvious question is "reasonable sufficiency" for what? Soviet military pro-

fessionals warn that the new technologies will make the tasks of the attacker more difficult. They also stress a point which is far from new to Soviet military thought: that an attacker who attacks everywhere can find himself outflanked or over-extended. Defence and offence must complement each other if the overall offensive is to succeed. This may be change of a kind, but it is a far cry from the advocacy of a defensive strategy or posture. On the contrary, the Soviet general staff seems to be preoccupied with rescuing an offensive strategy rather than abandoning it.

The intriguing question is whether Gorbachov would be willing to go further than his marshals. The possibility should not be ruled out. For the sake of European de-nuclearization, the German and the effective dissolution of Nato, Gorbachov might well countenance a defensive force posture — or at least a less offensive one. An offensive force posture — like armed force

itself — is simply a tool of policy. If the long-standing aims of policy could be better served by some other posture, there would be every reason to have it. But not even Gorbachov will have it otherwise. To date, he has been careful to justify his arms proposals in terms of the *current* military strategy. For the future, he is bound to remain as sensitive to strategic considerations as to political ones.

Lenin said that victory is impossible unless one knows how to attack and retreat properly. Gorbachov's retreats are genuine enough, but they are conducted with an offensive purpose. For all of the "new thinking" in Moscow, arms control is still a tool of ideological struggle and of military strategy.

As serious strategists, the Soviets are not concerned with imbalances of numbers, but of capability. They do not seek superiority in everything, only in the decisive. They would like nothing better than an arms agreement which legitimized a leaner, more potent and more economic force structure for the Warsaw Pact. We will not foil this aim unless we realize that Gorbachov's initiative signifies a new chapter in the East-West struggle, rather than its denouement. James Sherr, a fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford, is the author of *Soviet Power: the Continuing Challenge* (Macmillan).

## James Sherr sounds a warning on Gorbachov's troop-cut proposal

# Advance through retreat

Bernard Levin

# Why was it born at all?

flourish as long as that?

What did Creation think it was doing when it bred the dinosaurs? We can grasp, with our limited imagination, the progress of the sub-men who ultimately led to us: William Golding even wrote a remarkable novel, *The Inheritors*, which was set at the time when the last prototypes were being supplanted by *homo sapiens*.

Oddly enough, we can also conjure up an empty earth, cooling towards the point at which life could begin on it. But to envisage the age of the dinosaurs in any form more serious than the absurd films which have been made about pre-history is simply impossible.

Even though artists, instructed by paleontologists, have drawn pictures of what these creatures looked like, the three most familiar are the brontosaurus with its vastly long neck, the kite-like pterodactyl and — the most fearsome of them all — tyrannosaurus rex, rearing up on its hind legs displaying huge and savage teeth. (The brontosaurus was a vegetarian, they say. I wouldn't risk giving it a carrot if I met one).

The curiosity this amazing evolutionary boss-shot arouses in anyone capable of the feeling at all testifies to the power of the image they project, which in turn is provided by the stupendous difference between them and any other living creature we can think of, extant or extinct. (There is one exception, which I shall come to).

However vague our idea of evolution, we have a concept of gradual change from a lower form to a higher, a simpler to a more complex; a more sophisticated approach allows for parallel developments, so that the birds, for instance, do not need to have nested in our family tree. But the dinosaurs, as far as anyone can see, leapt into the middle of the stage, to the astonishment of the audience, some 225 million years ago, and vacated it some 150 million later to a round of



dazed applause whose echoes linger to this day.

A rhinoceros is a most extraordinary sight, as is a hippo, or for that matter a giraffe, and looking at them certainly stirs wonder, but it is a different kind of wonder altogether from that inspired by the dinosaurs. (A friend of mine took his then five-year-old son to the London Zoo, thinking that sights as extraordinary as the war-hog, the box constrictor and the elephant, to say nothing of the pelican, would surely provoke a reaction worth remembering in the boy. Junior

examined everything, however exotic or remarkable, with the same careful yet entirely unexcited gaze but without any comment, until they got to the lion-cages, where the king of the beasts was curled up asleep in the sun. The child examined this sight, too, as impassively as all the other wonders he had seen, and at last spoke. "Big miaoow baddy-byes," he said.)

Walt Disney's *Fantasia* has an episode of pre-historic monsters fighting, though for the life of me I cannot bring to mind what music it is which accompanies it:

is it the *Rite of Spring*? Possibly the scientists are wrong, and the catastrophe that destroyed them was merely a rise in their aggressiveness, so that they fought each other to extinction.

Where did they get their names? Surely Buffon didn't stretch his categories that far, if indeed fossil research had yet turned up the evidence (Linnaeus sounds like one himself). Tyrannosaurus is easily understood, but how did triceratops get called by a moniker which sounds like the chorus-line at Radio City Music Hall? That

reminds me; there is a pop-group called Tyrannosaurus Rex; where did they come upon that name, and what prompted them to appropriate it?

When Peter Gyn's enemies are all killed in a ship that explodes, he remarks of God that "He takes fatherly thought for my personal well — but economical, that he isn't". Peter chose the right word, and the dinosaurs should know; the extravagance of their rise and fall begets the imagination all over again. If the universe had no use for them in the evolutionary march, what were they created for?

For surely they had no place in that procession, unlike the sub-men who led to the real ones. Perhaps they hadn't time to evolve before the disaster, whatever it was, though that seems unlikely; we appeared not much more than 1,500,000 years after our remotest forebears, and the dinosaurs had anything up to 100 times that span to get their act together. But if the idea of the dinosaurs which did exist is almost impossible to encompass, how much more beyond us is even the sketchiest outline of what they might have become.

There is one clue, though I cannot imagine what it is a clue to. Have you ever got near enough to a lizard to look at it properly? It's difficult because of their nervousness and speed, but if you can find a sleepy one on a sunny wall and examine it, then imagine it 200 times larger, you have got a dinosaur.

Was this extraordinary left-over a joke? Or did the survivors emerge in shrunken form from the cataclysm? There are no answers, of course, because it is almost impossible to ask any questions. If it is any comfort to those of a particularly nervous disposition who fear that they might meet a dinosaur round the corner, the experts say that the brontosaurus had the smallest brain, relative to its size, of any creature that has ever lived. Mind you, the experts have never measured the TUC.

Commentary • JACK STRAW

# Forgotten fiascos

"A nation without history, is like a man without a memory."

Here, then, is some history: the leader of the Opposition "spoke in a rapid, incomprehensible, chattering splutter, like a typewriter that had broken loose and was terrorising the neighbourhood. Worse, occasionally, the leader slowed down enough to be understood." Thus spoke the *Daily Telegraph*, but not in December 1988 about Mrs Thatcher. Neil Kinnock, but in December 1978 about Mrs Thatcher. The occasion was the vote of confidence which the then Labour government had been forced to put down after the defeat in the night before (December 13) of its pay policy, and the carrying by two votes of a Conservative motion declining to support the "government's arbitrary use of economic sanctions against firms and workers who have negotiated pay settlements beyond a 'rigid limit'."

On the essential political principle that you should only hit a man when he is down, all Mrs Thatcher then had to do was to aim her boot at Jim Callaghan's head, and kick. She missed. The *Daily Telegraph* report continued: "Most Tory backbenchers looked as if they wished to be somewhere else. Dunkirk, say, or Wigan on a wet Wednesday. . . It was an inspiring sight — the lines of Tories sitting it out, unwavering, glassy-eyed, voluntarily listening as the clichés volleyed and thundered about them. . . Then the Commons was treated to a half-grooved economic lecture, a nightmarish confusion of Tory economic

notions, some true, others left deliberately unclear. . .

"But the government has halved the value of unemployment since 1974. The Labour government will never realise that the proper control of tax cuts means inflation incentives. But the Prime Minister is determined to cling to a rigid OECD (sic). At one stage, so desperate did Mrs Thatcher's speech become, that the ever-loyal Cranley Onslow (now chairman of the 1922 Committee) complained to the Speaker that the government whips had got Labour backbenchers 'to whisper and disturb' her."

Nor was this flaccid performance by Mrs Thatcher an aberration, an exception to an otherwise untarnished record in the forensic arts of opposition. She muffed at least as many chances as she took. For example, *The Times* of July 26, 1978, led with a report by its parliamentary correspondent more exhorting of a performance by a party leader than any I can recall.

"Tory dismay as Mrs Thatcher fails to jolt the Prime Minister" was the lead headline. Mrs Thatcher's speech opening the debate, said the report, "was a morass of statistics and political comparisons which totally misfired. . . Never in recent years has a speech on such an important occasion (on the economy) by a party leader been greeted by such a stony silence from his or her own benches. Mrs Thatcher sat down to deafening jeers and catcalls from the Labour benches, and expressions almost of shock, horror, and

despair on the faces of many Tory MPs. . .

"It is not too much to suggest," the experienced journalist who wrote this piece suggested, "that if a general election were not around the corner many Tory MPs might be wondering whether they had the right leader at the helm."

It is perhaps no wonder that four months later, despite the imminence of the general election, and the open goal of a government without a majority, *The Times* ran a story about "warring factions" within the Tory party. The paper, on November 2, 1978, reported that "Mrs Thatcher battled gallantly and with considerable success to reconcile some of the warring pay policy factions within the Conservative Party". Whatever success she had at this reconciliation, the fact that the divisions were so clear, and so public, emphasizes that all parties in opposition suffer frustrations that spill into public print.

Nor are opposition leaders' personal ratings ever too wonderful. Mrs Thatcher's highest Gallup Poll rating as a good opposition leader was 49 per cent and the lowest 31 per cent. Neil Kinnock's ratings as Labour leader have had a high of 55 per cent and a low of 26 per cent — a not dissimilar range, especially taking into account the simple truth that the British press is considerably more supportive of the Conservative Party than it is of Labour.

I do not, by the way, use this as a crutch or excuse. The fact that Labour is intrinsically more liable to be subject to hostile

press criticism than the Tories should make some Labour members pause for thought before they speak or behave in a way which could be portrayed as a sign of disunity. It is, after all, the appearance of disunity which causes otherwise sympathetic voters to hold back their active espousal of our cause. But there are plenty of examples of deep divisions within the Conservative ranks; if only they were reported with the élan and detail with which Labour's internal arguments are treated.

The latest elections for the officers of Tory backbench committees have been more bitterly contested than for years. I inadvertently witnessed the start of one such election — between the left-winger Sir George Young and the fairly right-wing apartheid expert, John Carlisle — for the chairmanship of the sports committee. But beyond the outcome of that vote, there has been barely a line of reporting.

Mrs Thatcher has now achieved greater dominance of the political scene than any other peacetime leader this century. But as we prepare for the bombardment of her tenth anniversary celebrations and sacred texts of the magic of her leadership, we would do well to remember that her record as opposition leader was rather patchy, to say the least.

Today's myth is that she was as successful an opposition leader as she has since 1982, been as prime minister. The truth, as a little history shows, is very different.

The author is Labour MP for Blackburn.

DEC 19 ON THIS DAY 1939

## SCUTTILING OF THE GRAF SPEE

After a running battle with the British cruisers *Exeter*, *Ajax* and *Achilles* the German battleship *Graf Spee* limped into Montevideo for repairs. Ordered to leave, she was scuttled on orders from Berlin; three days later her captain, Hans Langsdorff, committed suicide in Buenos Aires.

## SCUTTILING OF THE GRAF SPEE

From Our Special Correspondent MONTevideo, DEC. 18

Four seamen of the Admiral Graf Spee were arrested to-day by the port authority of Montevideo charged with blowing up their ship. They were a corporal of marines, a fireman, and two ordinary seamen, and were taken from among 350 members of the battleship's crew taken off by the *Tacoma* before the explosion. All of them are to be interned. If Captain Langsdorff had not put himself outside Uruguayan jurisdiction by escaping from the scene in an Argentine vessel, he too would have been arrested.

There was no crew on board when the Admiral Graf Spee was scuttled, all including the captain having been transferred to Argentine tugs and barges, owned by a German-Argentine firm, which sailed for Buenos Aires.

It is now known that the Uruguayan Government upheld international law in spite of the strongest possible German pressure.

On Friday Dr Guani, the Foreign Minister, informed the German Minister that the German battleship must leave by 8 o'clock on Sunday evening. On Saturday the German Minister and the commander informed Dr Guani that the Admiral Graf

Spee would not be seaworthy, and demanded a stay of 15 days. Dr Guani offered to reconsider the matter provided that Germany accepted the Uruguayan Government's decision without question, but no affirmative was received the original time limit was held.

At 8.35 on Saturday evening a London steamer, the *Dunster* Grange, sailed from Montevideo, and the port authorities prohibited the Admiral Graf Spee from leaving for 24 hours.

At 8.30 the Admiral Graf Spee sailed, and exploded. The explosion punctuated and Wagnerian effect against the setting sun five minutes before the time limit. An hour later the German Minister protested to Dr Guani that the neutrality rules had not been properly observed, and published the captain's letter protesting that the Uruguayan Government's decision contravened Article 17 of The Hague Convention XIII; and stating that the Admiral Graf Spee was unseaworthy, since there was no time to repair the hull, and it was impossible to feed 1,000 men with the cooks' galleys destroyed, and that he had therefore decided to save the crew and sink the ship.

Captain Langsdorff asserted that the contractor and personnel who had been making the repairs were prevented by the Customs authorities on December 16 for several hours from getting on board, and were only allowed to go on the ship after a protest had been made by the German Legation.

The captain's refusal to face battle was probably due to greater underwater damage than was known and to the crew's lowered morale. The Admiral Graf Spee is now semi-submerged in shallow water near the main shipping channel. Her hull is buckled and twisted, and blackened with the fire that is still raging inside her.





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## BIG SCIENCE

Two decisions have put the United Kingdom back in the "big league" of scientific nations. After much hesitation, the Government has committed itself to continue subscribing to the Centre Européen de Recherche Nucléaire (Cern). After similar delays, it has also signed up with the partners in the European Space Agency (ESA) for the Horizon 2000 space project.

Participation in these two joint enterprises does not mean that the Government has entirely shed its reputation for carelessness towards Britain's research capabilities. But it is a good sign — one whose importance is not confined to physicists or astronomers. It provides an opportunity to put national space and science policy back on course.

The low point was reached earlier this year when Mr Kenneth Clarke, then the Trade and Industry minister responsible, proved so unnecessarily abrasive and negative in international negotiations with Britain's scientific partners. His successor, Mr Tony Newton, is blessed not only with an auspicious name in this field; he has the calmer style that was required too.

The Government was right to insist on a thorough efficiency audit at Cern. It has scored important points and injected a necessary note of cost consciousness into the ESA. But that phase is now over. Ministers should plan ahead in a more positive frame of mind.

In recent years the Government has successfully given the impression that it cared little for scientists or their work. Ill-considered rhetoric and lack of imagination have obscured the considerable investment still made annually in big, basic science projects.

Science policy has had three main positive elements. The Government wants the "consumers" of research, private business, to underwrite more of its costs. It has sought to apply to research the firm criteria of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. It has refused to accept that expenditure on science be immune from external scrutiny by accountants.

But it has been reluctant itself to "pick winners", despite the attempt by both the Advisory Board for the Research Councils and the University Grants Committee to push policy in the direction of concentrating available resources in a strictly limited number of specialisms and laboratories. Applied to participation in international programmes in space and for advancing pure knowledge in particle physics these principles have led to procrastination and — for a while — the possibility of withdrawal altogether.

Take Cern first. To compete in the same league as the accelerator recently agreed by the

Reagan Administration for Texas requires the pooling of resources from several European countries. Even then it means devoting a significant fraction of each national science budget to particle physics. The Government found itself dithering over the expense when the real question was one of principle: should Britain, still with some of the finest nuclear physicists in the world, remain a top player in the science business?

To accuse Cern of inefficiencies was easy (and entirely justified). But to try to avoid a decision on grounds of office politics in Lausanne and Geneva was wrong.

Britain, in European partnership, is to continue to probe for the basic truths about the matter that makes up our world. The Government and its agents in the Science and Engineering Research Council must now live with the consequences of having, in effect, picked a winner. These consequences could include painful economies elsewhere in the budget.

Now consider the ESA. Mr Clarke's continual refrain was: why should we get embroiled in expensive French visions of extra-terrestrial glories? The case for European collaboration on rocketry was made with terrible force the day that Challenger exploded and the only launch vehicles available for scientific and commercial satellites were Russian, Chinese or Ariane.

The case for a British place in space science can be made on several grounds, the existing investment in astronomy which would gradually go to waste, the abandonment of all the potential benefits (most inevitably still unknown) of the last frontier; not least there was the potentially deadening effect on young minds here if British capability in space were to be denied. Having made the decision to go forward, the ESA was the only means open.

But why, Mr Clarke said more than once, does not British business pay? The answer to that is a compound of time horizons, corporate strategy and, perhaps above all, the fact that in no other country (especially the United States) has private capital done more than provide for the exploitation of technologies developed by government agencies.

That phase is now, thankfully, past. Britain has signed up for the ESA's "Horizon 2000" project, having secured an external scrutiny of the accounts. With that decision the Government has given a necessary and valuable focus to scientific research. Britain is a little nearer now to a science policy fit for an enterprising society, still proud to devote significant national resources to the advance and exploitation of physical knowledge.

## THE TERRORIST ELECTION

Those who vote in today's Sri Lankan elections, and those who stay away, are almost equally in fear of their lives. The two main candidates, at a time when the country desperately needs firm, imaginative leadership, are uninspiring. Even in the grim history of Sri Lanka this is a grim occasion to choose a President.

Violence, first by Tamil separatists and more recently by the extremist Marxists of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramutha (JVP), has sabotaged the country's hopes of prosperity and its once-proud record of respect for human rights. Few Sri Lankans expect the elections to put an early end to the crisis.

Sri Lanka was once called by Andre Malraux "one of the calmest places on earth". It has long since ceased to be that — and over recent months it has become a charnel-house. Trees beside its beaches, deserted by tourists at what would normally be the height of the season, have been hung with corpses.

Mutilated bodies, some "necklaced" in the South African manner, are dumped in its streets. Beside each have been notices warning passers-by that death is the penalty either — depending on the hit squad — for supporting the Government or for supporting the JVP. Those who go to work risk being murdered by the JVP; those who do not, face the death penalty recently introduced for such an offence by the Government.

The country's economy is disintegrating. What makes this all especially tragic is that the separatist Tamil insurrection, which for four years threatened the country's unity, shows fragile signs of eventual settlement.

It is against the basis for that hope, the Indo-Sri Lankan accord of July 1987, that the JVP has founded its campaign against the Government. Exploiting Sri Lankan chauvinism, the JVP demands withdrawal of the Indian peace-keeping troops, brought in under the accord, who have lost more than 700 men in efforts to bring the insurgency under control. It also demands the scrapping both of the accord and of the provincial Tamil councils which have been set up under its provisions.

The real aim of the JVP guerrillas is to bring about the collapse of democracy. In recent weeks, they have made this goal more explicit, adding to their demands the Government's

resignation. Neither the Government nor either of the two main candidates has shown resolution in the face of these demands. The outgoing President Jayewardene has already tried concessions, offering to include JVP members in his cabinet. He has picked as his United National Party's presidential candidate Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa, a man personally opposed to the Indo-Sri Lankan pact.

Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike, the candidate of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, herself put down with considerable ruthlessness an earlier JVP uprising in the 1970s. But in her efforts to win re-election, she has also sought to accommodate the movement. Only the leader of the small, socialist, People's Party, Mr Ossie Abeygunasekera, has had the courage to condemn the JVP outright.

These conciliatory manoeuvres have prompted the JVP to raise the stakes. Backing its threats with murder, it has called for a boycott of the election, and declared a national "curfew" until tomorrow night. In turn, the Government yesterday announced penalties ranging from 10 years' imprisonment to the death sentence for attempts to prevent people from voting. It has also, increasingly, turned a blind eye to murder by its security agencies and the pro-government death squads.

The race is close, with Mr Premadasa more likely to win if there is a low turn-out. Mrs Bandaranaike, who probably has a greater measure of popular support, poses the greater risk for the country. She has been wholly inexplicit about dealing with India or the JVP and, on the record of her last administration, her re-election would invite financial catastrophe. Mr Premadasa is more likely, after initial efforts at compromise, to confront the JVP.

Sri Lanka's continuing and imperative need is not to appease Sinhalese nationalism but to reconcile its Tamil and Sinhalese communities. Both candidates have promised to renegotiate the Indo-Sri Lankan pact. But this could reignite the Tamil insurgency without appeasing the JVP. The alternative is for the new President to reject compromise with the JVP and devote all the Government's energy to putting down what is indubitably a terrorist movement.

### Official secrecy

From Mr Maurice Frankel  
Sir, Rupert Allason, MP (December 13) suggests that under the new Official Secrets Bill an author who quotes the words of a retired member of the security or intelligence services would escape prosecution.

Spy-book writers should beware: this is not so. Moreover, contrary to repeated Home Office assertions, the author would probably be convicted even if the disclosure did no harm. Any reference, including one previously published, to "insider" information about breaking into premises, telephone tapping, or postal interception — if done under a warrant — would be an absolute offence under clause 4(3) of the Bill.

An author or journalist who encourages a service member to reveal information to them could be charged as an accessory to the member's offence. The offence is committed when the member gives the information to the author, even if he or she doesn't publish it. Ministers have acknowledged that journalists could be charged in this way.

Any other revelation on the subject, which originally comes from an inside source — even an unsubstantiated allegation (specifically covered by clause 1(2)) — could be an offence if it fell within a general "class or description" likely to be damaging. The fact that the actual disclosure did no harm or revealed wholly unacceptable behaviour would not keep an author or journalist from conviction.

Few people would suggest that there should be no restrictions in this area. But a reasonable approach for a non-totalitarian society would be to allow a defence for disclosures which in fact do no injury.

Still more important would be to recognise, as the law lords did in the *Spycatcher* case, that if gross injury occurred which could not otherwise be prevented, an official (in Lord Griffiths's words) "should be relieved of his duty of confidence so that he could alert his fellow citizens to the impending danger".  
Yours faithfully,  
MAURICE FRANKEL,  
The Campaign for Freedom of Information,  
3 Endsleigh Street, WC1.  
December 14.

## Choice of battle tank for Army

From the Chairman and members of the House of Commons Select Committee on Defence

Sir, Very shortly the Government is to take a decision on the ordering of up to 600 main battle tanks for the British Army. The choice between the Challenger 2, built by the British company Vickers, and a development of the Abrams M1A1, built by General Dynamics of the United States, has been the subject of discussion in your columns (November 24, 29).

As members of the House of Commons Select Committee on Defence, we have consistently urged that decisions on equipment for the Services should be based on an objective comparison of the contenders against criteria of cost, availability and performance. So far as the choice of main battle tank is concerned, this view was most recently stressed in the fifth report from the Defence Committee of Session 1987-88, *Procurement of Major Defence Equipment*.

When announcing its final decision we expect the Government to set out clearly its judgement of the relative performance of each contender in respect of unit, through-life and spares costs as well as the cost of logistical support, in respect of delivery dates, reliability and maintainability; and in respect of firepower, accuracy, endurance, survivability and other performance factors.

If the final decision is not to buy British, Challenger's substantial export opportunities will be lost. Overseas customers rarely buy equipment rejected by the Armed Forces of the manufacturer's own country. Assurance must be forthcoming that, in the case of Challenger, the Government has taken these opportunities fully into account.

Only thus can the taxpayer, who will ultimately foot the bill, judge the real cost and suitability of the equipment which the Army is to get.

We have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servants,  
MICHAEL MATES, Chairman,  
JOHN CRAWFORD, Chairman,  
WINSTON CHURCHILL, DICK DOUGLAS,  
BRUCE GEORGE, HARVEY HAYDOE,  
JOHN HAZELL, JOHN MCINTOSH,  
JONATHAN SAYED, NEIL THORNE,  
JOHN WILKINSON,  
House of Commons,  
December 14.

### Teacher transfer

From Mrs Barbara Bryant  
Sir, Mr David Hart (December 14) refers to the long-standing problems at Highbury Quadrant school. As chairman of the then governing body I was responsible for a managers' inquiry into grave problems with staff at the school in 1969. The head teacher had no power to hire or fire staff, and the managing body only limited powers. At the close of what was then the longest disciplinary inquiry ever held in the school, the managing body was empowered only to recommend that one member of staff be removed from the school, and two reprimanded. The head could have taken a decision to dismiss the staff from its employment, but in fact placed them in other schools.

It would seem prudent, therefore, particularly in view of changes following the Education Reform Act, to reassess the duties expected of head teachers, and to ensure that they have adequate powers to run schools effectively, and they receive sufficient management training and administrative support to properly exercise these powers. In the absence of positive action the education of children remains at risk and the problems at Highbury Quadrant could fester for another 20 years.  
Yours faithfully,  
BARBARA BRYANT,  
46 Oliver's Battery Road,  
Winchester, Hampshire.

Off-peak?  
From Mr Mark A. Charnock  
Sir, Has anybody else noticed that the Government has changed the way it abbreviates the long-winded titles of the regulatory bodies for privatised utilities? The Office of Electricity Regulation is to be known as "Ofel".

After "Ofel" (telecommunications) and "Ofgas" (gas) one might have expected the new regulatory body to be called "Ofel". Surely a much more appropriate name for a dog's breakfast.  
Yours faithfully,  
MARK A. CHARNOCK,  
Flat 2, Norfolk Mansions,  
Lithos Road, NW3.

### Aids charter

From Professor M. W. Adler  
Sir, I signed the Aids charter, attacked in your columns by Sir Alfred Sherman (December 14). I am not a "self-important entertainer", but a hospital clinician working daily with the enormous variety of tragic problems that the Aids epidemic is causing to a cross-section of the British population.

If, as I have done, Sir Alfred had listened to the histories of the female student infected on her first episode of sexual intercourse, the infected female shop assistant picked up in the Blood Transfusion Service with only two lifetime partners, and the nurse infected also after only two partners — all of them recent patients of my department — I think he would not be so quick to condemn all those with HIV infection as part of a "sexual underworld" or "undesirable minorities". The fact is that the number of heterosexuals infected with HIV attending my clinic has doubled in the last year.

## Paying twice for nation's water

From Mr Donald S. Akroyd  
Sir, The Prime Minister is, of course, entirely correct in her platitudinous belief that a price has to be paid for potable water and a clean environment.

In the Nene Valley and the adjoining area that price has been paid over the last 35 years by the construction of three reservoirs, one of them the largest in Europe. In the last 15 years substantial work has been carried out in extending, improving and rationalising sewerage works and the sewage system.

The loans raised to pay for these major projects have been paid off, or are still being paid off, by the owners and occupiers of the properties served by these projects, without any Government grants. The projects belong to them in equity, although that ownership is effected and represented corporately in the water authorities, who hold the investments in a fiduciary capacity. The situation is different from that relating to other public utilities, when the investment was made by central Government, or by the consumers on a national basis.

The Government now intends to appropriate the proceeds of selling off these valuable local investments. The owners and occupiers will continue to pay the price for potable water and a clean environment, to which will now be added the dividends which will have to be paid to those who now invest in the projects whose owners and occupiers have created.

The privatisation of water appears to be most unpopular, even among Government supporters. I suggest that it is also inequitable to the point of being dishonest.

I am, Sir, yours,  
DONALD S. AKROYD,  
The Stone Cottage,  
Barnwell,  
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.  
December 8.

From Mr Sydney Shenton  
Sir, Competition is the element most conspicuous for its absence from the Water Bill. There are, however, other menacing disadvantages.

Environmentally, it seems in-

conceivable that we should consider the sale into private profit motivated hands some of the most beautiful and, up to now, protected areas of the country. For a century and a half now the National Trust has been progressively and admirably preserving and caring for areas of outstanding natural beauty for posterity: now, in one fell swoop the clock will be set back and the path of permanent damage embarked upon.

Economically, the sell-off will push up the price of a natural resource to that of energy. High capital values of the sale will justify exceptional increases on the basis of even modest rates of return, with the addition of irresistible pressures to maximum development.

It is totally misleading to suggest that only access to private ownership and capital can provide the means for the improvement of standards of supply and disposal. Surely we can take breath and have another look at the errors and damage involved in water privatisation. We still have Parliament to fall back on, if a modicum of courage and independence can be found in those circles.

Sincerely,  
SYDNEY SHENTON,  
95 The Crescent,  
Davenport,  
Stockport, Cheshire.  
December 9.

From Mr Edward Hanson  
Sir, The Government would have us believe that their idea of "competition by comparison" between suppliers of water and electricity will somehow ensure fair prices to their tied customers — a concept at once touching and without foundation.

Since each undertaking will justify charges based on costs peculiar to their area, any comparison of prices between undertakings can only be academic, and quite without any influence on the prices they will charge.

Yours faithfully,  
EDWARD HANSON,  
Criffel, Tallantire,  
Cockermouth, Cumbria.  
December 8.

### Property rights

From Mr R. E. Wraith  
Sir, If the proposed legislation about property rights in marriage gets off the ground (report, December 9) it will presumably not apply to those married in the Church of England, whose marriage service says forthrightly, "all my worldly goods I with thee share". This covers all the eventualities which trouble the Law Commission.

Perhaps it could be made clear in a preamble to any resulting Act of Parliament that it applied only to non-Anglicans, whom one distinguishes from others since there is the Established Church and canon law and statute law ought not to be in conflict.  
Yours faithfully,  
R. E. WRAITH,  
Langton Cottage,  
Eye, Suffolk.  
December 11.

### Bias in the arts

From Mrs O. C. D. Mitchell  
Sir, I must take issue with Lord Goodman's claim (December 10) that establishments purveying culture are lacking in London outside the West End and Croydon.

My husband and I, as London theatregoers during the last decade have visited the Greenwich Theatre (*The White Devil*, *The Glass Menagerie*), the Theatre Royal, Stratford East (*Pericles*), the Lyric, Hammersmith (*The Devil and the Good Lord*) and the Almeida, Islington (*War Music*, *The Saxon Shore*, *Oedipus*).

With more time and greater energy we could have paid similar visits to Hampstead, the Orange Tree, Richmond, and, indeed, Croydon. Here on our doorstep, in Battersea, we have the Arts Centre and Latchmere Theatre, whose productions are regularly noticed on your pages.

I have mentioned only a few outstanding memories, but there have been many more shows which, with modest ticket prices and friendly welcomes, have made these suburban extensions both enjoyable and worthwhile.  
Yours faithfully,  
JUDITH M. MITCHELL,  
100A York Mansions,  
Prince of Wales Drive, SW11.  
December 11.

In the USA, conservative estimates are that there will be 270,000 cases of Aids by 1991. Currently 4 per cent of cases in the States have occurred as a result of heterosexual contact and the proportion of cases occurring in women increases each year; the greatest increase occurring in women infected through heterosexual intercourse. It is just irresponsible to assume, complacently, that our situation is different, or that 270,000 Americans will all come from "minority" communities.

Contrary to Sir Alfred's claim that we are putting those with Aids in a "privileged position", we have done exactly the opposite by discrimination and moralising. Society has all too often brutalised sufferers by a response that includes loss of employment, housing and education, not to mention a lack of sympathy, an expression of which would reassure me that

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 3946.

## Snags on reform in sentencing

From Professor J. E. Hall Williams

Sir, While welcoming any proposals for bringing about a reform in sentencing, I believe that if the Parole Review report's proposals were implemented (report, November 26) certain adverse consequences would result:

1. All prisoners serving four years or less would be released automatically after serving half the sentence, on a non-selective basis involving mandatory supervision till the three-quarters point. This despite the dismal history of mandatory licences for young offenders and persistent offenders, the difficulty experienced by the probation service in supervising unwilling and unco-operative prisoners, and the rejection of automatic parole in 1981.

2. Those prisoners serving longer terms will have a chance of parole release after half the term has been served, but not earlier, as now, and on conditions which are more severe than at present, and involving precisely that selection which the report says is wrong in principle.

3. Those prisoners not released on parole will be liable to serve the balance of their sentence if reconvicted during the last third of their term, as will all other prisoners.

4. There will be more failures (possibly as high as 20 per cent) and more risk to the public.

5. There will be more pressure on the prisons unless there is a simultaneous reduction in the sentencing tariff.

This extremely well-written report should not be allowed to pass without criticism of its reactionary implications. Changes were needed to correct the confusion which arose after 1983 in the operation of the parole system, but these are not the changes which Parliament should adopt.

Yours faithfully,  
J. E. HALL WILLIAMS,  
The London School of Economics and Political Science,  
Houghton Street, WC2.  
December 12.

opportunities, for Lewis Silkin piloted through the legislation to enable these things to happen.

So what has happened? The easy things, like building new towns in green fields have been mostly done; but the difficult things have been the subject of endless squabbling between party politicians, compounded in the case of transport by sheer ignorance of what and what goes where and why and how. Now the politicians seem near the point of throwing overboard the very idea that where people live and work and their transport needs is a valid subject for analysis and planning.

It is not as though, since Abercrombie, the politicians have lacked professional advice. Any amount of it has been given, most of it pretty consistent on the main issues, but the politicians remained tied up in their own prejudices. What irks me as a professional is that when something goes wrong as a result of years of incomprehension and under-funding, as at King's Cross loaded beyond capacity in over-loaded London, it is the loyal hard-stretched professionals who have to pay the price with their careers. Yours truly,  
COLIN BUCHANAN,  
Appletree House, Lincombe Lane,  
Boars Hill, Oxford.  
December 13.

### A plague for Pound?

From Mr R. J. Clothier  
Sir, The signatories of Dr Niven's letter (December 15) plead that "We should be able to dissociate his (Ezra Pound's) later political excesses from what is of permanent value in his work".

There is not much disagreement nowadays as to Pound's status as a poet, but his reputation as a man is still, sadly, in the melting pot.

Our children's generation may decide that the taint of fascism can be put down to a madness of later life, and the hint of anti-Semitism suggested by Eliot's letters and the "usury" passages of the *Cantos* has no substance. I believe they will, but this is not the century for "blue plaques" while such doubts remain.  
Yours faithfully,  
R. J. CLOTHIER,  
18 Somerton House,  
Dukes Road, WC1.

We are all still at least a caring society.

Sir Alfred also claims that some of us are not mobilising traditional measures, such as isolation and compulsory testing, to combat the epidemic. Yet other sexually acquired infections, such as syphilis and gonorrhoea, were not controlled in this way; heavy-handed legislation failed and drove the disease underground.

Finally, Sir Alfred questions the use of health budget money to publish the information contained in the Aids charter. But while we have no cure and no vaccine to combat the greatest threat to public health this century, education is the only weapon we have to fight with. If your correspondents are as ill-informed as Sir Alfred then there is need for much more to be spent, not less.  
Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL ADLER,  
The Middlesex Hospital,  
Academic Department of Genito-Urinary Medicine,  
James Pringle House,  
Charlotte Street, W1.  
December 16.

### Ryan extradition

From Sir Andrew Gilchrist  
Sir, In your leading article on Ireland (December 14) you write of the Irish Attorney General: Deprived of the argument of technical deficiency, he created a fresh ground for refusal. He is charged to look after the rights of all Irish citizens, and this must include assessing the likelihood of a fair trial should the defendant be returned.

True. But Mr Murray is a politician, and he would be a very poor politician indeed if, in assessing the likelihood of a fair trial, he did not take into full account the long-standing and recently intensified opinion of the common people of Ireland that a fair trial for an Irishman in England is in no way to be relied upon.

The recognition and management of unpleasant facts is an essential feature of diplomacy. Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW GILCHRIST,  
Arthur's Crag,  
Hazelbank, by Lanark.  
December 14.

### Tucking in

From Professor Peter Rickard  
Sir, In reply to Mr Marshall-Chervet's enquiry (December 3) about a suitable verbal encouragement to those about to partake of Christmas dinner, might I suggest the remark allegedly made to his English guests by a well-intentioned Spanish host: "Much good may it do you!"  
Yours faithfully,  
PETER RICKARD,  
Emmanuel College,  
Cambridge.  
December 5.

From Mrs Patricia Morris  
Sir, The Scottish admonition to "stick in till ye stick out" is entirely suitable for Christmas. Yours faithfully,  
PATRICIA MORRIS,  
4 West Mall,  
Clifton,  
Bristol, Avon.  
December 5.



## MONDAY PAGE

# Escaping the debts of despair

With consumer credit standing at a record £25 billion this Christmas, Manchester is offering debt counselling to those with serious financial problems. It could become a national service, Peta Levi reports

Debt is one of the last taboo subjects left in Britain. As many as 300,000 families owe money (each debt averaging £1,500, excluding mortgages) and the total owed in consumer credit now stands at £25 billion.

Not only are we slipping deeper into debt, but the type of people finding themselves in the red has changed. "More professional people are getting into debt but are reluctant to admit it," says Julia McClaren, producer of a recent TV programme on debt. She spent several months researching the subject of debt and found that consumer groups, such as the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, have noticed a change in the profile of a typical debtor. Once poor, probably working class, living in the North and with a debt of a few hundred pounds, the average debtor is now a professional or middle-class person, owing thousands of pounds and living anywhere, including the South.

Janet Ford, senior lecturer in sociology at Loughborough University and author of *The Indebted Society*, says: "There are straws in the wind which suggest that debt is an increasing problem for the middle classes. Studies that have looked at people being summoned to county courts for debt in 1986 compared with 1981 show that more of them are now drawn from junior professional and skilled workers, instead of manual working households."

The temptations offered by our credit-boom society are often difficult to resist. Moreover, people make mistakes. Anyone can incur debts, but it is not easy to find help to escape them. Many refuse to face up to the problem — resulting in a loss of self-esteem, and sometimes even attempted suicide.

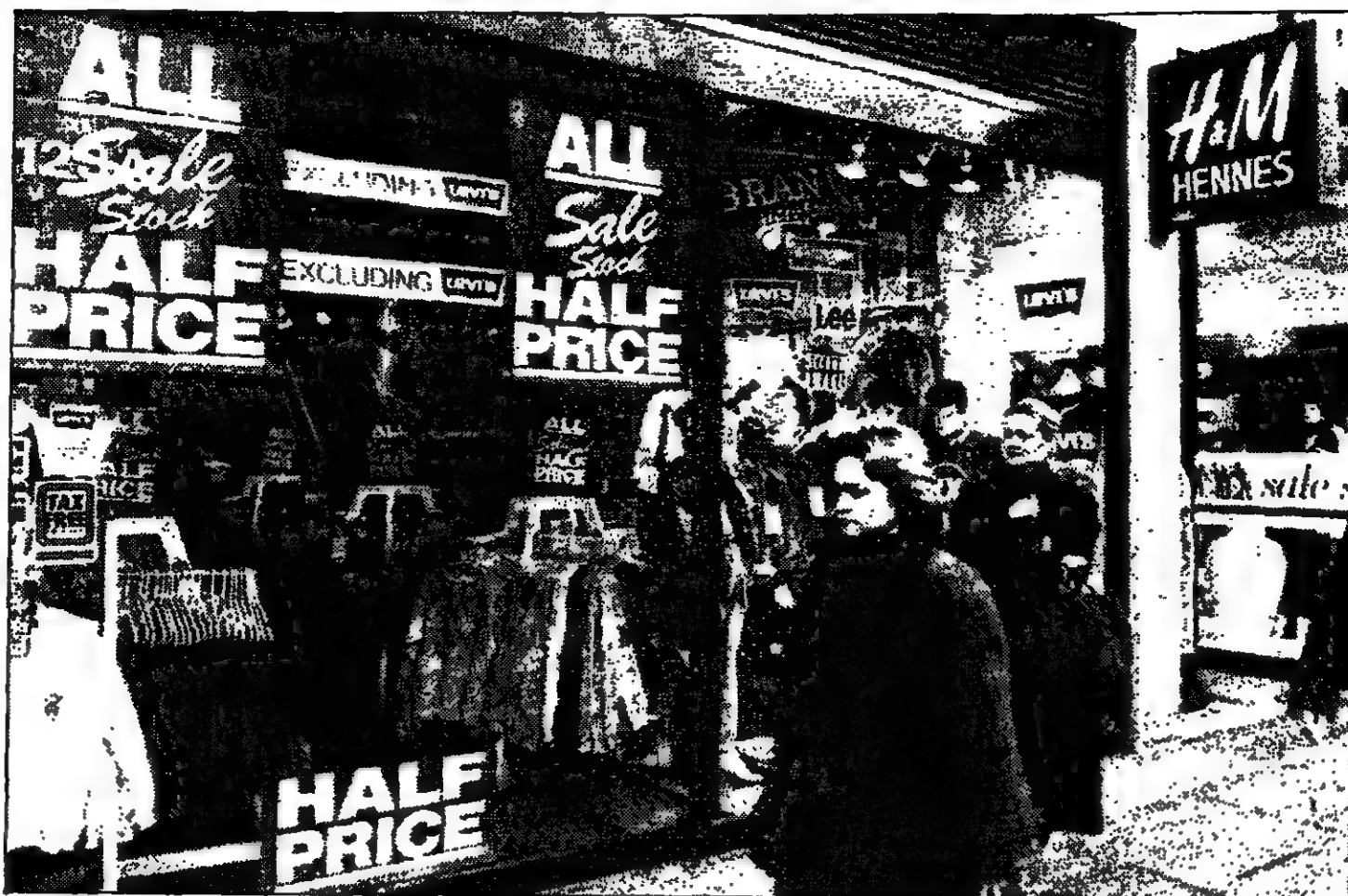
Ruth, a magistrate, found herself with financial problems when her husband died and part of the family income disappeared. Just as she was recovering, her mother died. These two events, happening so quickly, were devastating. When her son moved away and she had no one to turn to, she lost hope. She started spending and too late found that she had bought more than she could pay for.

To help people like Ruth, Stuart Giles, a 40-year-old debt counsellor with Manchester City Council, has started an independent self-help group called Support in Debt (SID). "When you are in a responsible job, the hardest thing in the world is to admit that something is wrong," he says. "People in debt are frightened and worried. They usually want to become creditworthy, but don't know where to turn for help."

Many Citizens' Advice Bureaux give financial advice in Cheshire, Stockport, the CAB manager, Bridget Franklin, says helping with debt problems is one of the major factors in her workload, and it has increased over the last five years. But Giles goes beyond simply giving budgeting advice to look at the problems which caused the debt. His group also provides support while people struggle, often for many years, to become creditworthy.

Facing up to debt, especially for professional people, is particularly hard. Debt is a subject as personal as sex, and society attaches a stigma to it. A great deal of secrecy surrounds it, even between husband and wife.

Robert Smith, a 35-year-old residential social worker from Manchester, married with an eight-year-old daughter, says: "I didn't tell my wife the extent of the problem; I didn't want her to worry and I thought I could cope.



Buy now, pay later: pre-Christmas sales are a new temptation to put it on plastic now — and the middle classes are the new debtors

However, when companies started ringing me at work, threatening to take me to court, I realized something must be done. Another difficulty in facing the problem is that I feared colleagues would ridicule me — how can you help others if you can't manage your own finances?"

Technically Smith feels that he has been in debt since his first mortgage 10 years ago. A turning point in a downward spiral of more serious debt occurred four years ago when his house did not sell for the expected price. This coincided with a job move during which he retained his salary but lost his bonuses. He now realizes he subsequently tried to buy a new identity by creating an ivory tower at home. This was partly because he lacked self-esteem, as his job was not developing and the social services profession was not well respected.

**'I can't tell you the relief, it was like someone suddenly opening the door of my prison'**

As a professional person trying to cope with his debts, Smith found he had peculiar disadvantages. For instance, banks, credit institutions and building societies exacerbated the problem as they were prepared to extend credit, offering a second mortgage and a bigger loan. This resulted in increased interest rates, thereby enlarging the debt. Feeling desperate ("I could have run away or done something drastic"), he went to a Citizens Advice Bureau and received the unhelpful advice that

as a social worker he ought to have known better.

He crept into Manchester Town Hall (for fear of being seen) to visit Giles, whom he had known some years earlier. "Stuart immediately took the pressure off me. He worked out a budget, setting aside money for housekeeping and all the necessities of life. The £60 left over each month was then divided between all the creditors, one only getting 30p each month. I can't tell you the relief, it was like someone suddenly opening the door of my

prison." Until then Smith had concentrated on trying to meet creditors bills first, which sometimes left the family with nothing to eat.

Smith was encouraged to attend group meetings of SID and was relieved to find other professionals there — solicitors, civil servants and a tax inspector. After 18 months he is now the group's co-ordinator.

The Smiths know that it will take them about 10 years to pay off their debts. Christmas is a difficult time because of the external pressures to spend, but Smith has saved carefully throughout the year so that he has been able to buy "adequate" presents for his wife and daughter and there will be enough food and drink for a few good meals over Christmas.

His wife, Ann, says: "Before Robert admitted the seriousness

of the debt problem, I knew something was wrong. The strain was affecting his health and he was becoming snappy with me and our daughter. Now that we are in control of the situation and discuss money freely we have peace of mind."

Debts have changed their lifestyle in that they do not have holidays, do not eat out or go to the theatre or cinema, and eat chicken instead of beef. Ann says: "Before I buy anything I always ask myself, do I want it or need it? If I just want it, I forget it. If I need it, we sit down and discuss whether to buy it. There are times when I get depressed and we both feel like saying 'let's blow it', but then we realize we wouldn't just be letting ourselves down, we would be letting down the SID group."

Giles says that people do not become compulsive spenders without a reason. There are many causes, such as an unhappy childhood, child abuse, job insecurity and frustration. About 30 people go to SID's fortnightly group meetings in Manchester. Open meetings are held regularly, when people can go and learn what SID does. Currently Giles is training 34 volunteers and plans to initiate a course to train people to run self-help groups, as some members of their management committee want to start groups in other parts of the country.

SID has a good relationship with the registrar at Manchester County Court and helps debtors prepare their financial statements. Smith says: "When a credit company takes someone to court, the debtors are petrified they will be punished, but the registrar is an arbitrator and it is helped if a case is logically presented."

The group has sent a report to the Lord Chancellor requesting a meeting to discuss funding of a debt counselling service attached to courts in the Greater Manchester area. If the project proves successful, the aim would be to set up an independent national debt counselling service.

For further information, write (enclosing SAE) to SID, 1 Linksfield, Denon, Manchester M34 3TE (tel 061 320 8622 or 061 234 7189). The Indebted Society: Credit and Default in the 1980s, by Janet Ford, is published by Routledge (£12.95).

EYES AND EARS TO DEFEND AGAINST ALL THREATS IN THE AIR

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The Eyes Hawk is far from defenceless. It can hear the approach of a target long before the opposition's radar becomes effective. With its vibration receptors it can detect an approaching predator and respond with a threat display using its spectacular eye-spots. Chemical sensors on the antennae identify friends' odour signals. Effective integrated systems at detection and communication. Such interlocking systems effectively developed from comprehensive threat analysis, are the Plessey approach to defence in the air. With voice and data communications, navigation, identification, night data, electronic warfare and weapon system electronics and support from a large specialist software team, we are an established supplier in this technology. Hence our prime contracting and operations live roles in communication and navigation projects such as JTRIS, GPS and NIS, the NATO identification system. In air defence, we have the technology to meet the needs of today's air forces.

**PLESSEY**

Head Office: Plessey House, 100, Victoria Road, London W14 7JF. Tel: 01-834 1111. Telex: 94001. Cable: PLESSEY. Fax: 01-834 1111.

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## MONDAY PAGE

# Proving two is company

Has the dismissal of George and Liz Davies destroyed the cult of the couple? Andrea Waind reports

The sudden departure of George and Liz Davies from the Next empire after a bloody boardroom battle has left a question mark hanging over the Davies success formula of employing teams of dedicated couples to boost the business.

One of George Davies's most important strategies was what he called the "ark principle". At its most successful stage he relied upon 14 couples, including top design, catering and transport teams, a public relations consultancy, plus his wife, the company's co-founder and design director, whom he met when they both worked at Pippa Dee Fashions.

He gave his wife much of the credit for Next's success: "Liz has a finer level of taste than I have. I would always have been adequate in business but it's Liz who has the vital spark." Her influence could be seen in everything from the hi-tech head office at Enderby in Leicestershire, the layout of the shops and style of the goods on offer to the couple's £1 million, 12th-century mansion in nearby Foston.

Every morning at 6am Davies leapt from his four-poster, which is swathed in Next fabrics, to consult the computer showing the daily returns of each of his shops and the FT index. He demanded the same level of commitment from his 1,500-strong workforce.

"The couples philosophy worked for the company because Next culture is all consuming," said Andrew Mossman, who worked on the Next Directory, and is married to Frances, a Next design director. "Many came because

of George. I certainly did. I met George and Liz socially through Frances before applying to join the company."

One shocked couple who before the dismissal of the Davies had each happily worked a 60 hour week, spent last week considering their future. "Meetings often started at 5pm and went on through the night. Next depends on that level of commitment. We were willing to do it for George - he was a guru for most of us. But we will do it for our new bosses? They may be financial wizards, but have they got what it takes to lead us through what looks like being a difficult future?"

There is a feeling that the pioneering style that Next created is on the wane, but such is the regard in which Davies is held, employees were confident he would lead them in brave new directions. The board could not see that Davies had a mid-success crisis, like the one Sir Terence Conran survived, said one staff member.

With shares slumping from 292p in January to 133p last Friday, the commitment shown by one couple in junior management will be needed for any revival in fortune. "We work long hours, we rarely see each other except at weekends which we spend looking round Next shops in other cities. I was a Next Merit Award winner and the prize was a fortnight in Mauritius touring Next factories. We go to sleep dreaming of the Next logo."

Top Next designers spend weeks away from their partners at furniture, fabric and shoe conventions around Europe. With Davies at the helm such devotion brought its own rewards. After Frances



The dynamic duo: George and Liz Davies were just one of 15 Next couples married to the job

Mossman had spent three weeks away from home selecting cloth. Davies had her husband flown to Paris for a champagne weekend. "When I came out of the Paris Next shop he was waiting in a taxi." The couple also holidayed in the South of France with the Davies. "We spent most of the time discussing fashions and future directions. It makes for immediate decision-taking because you're so close to the boss."

George Davies insisted on using first names and maintaining a family atmosphere. Staff dress in Next clothes, dine in the quality restaurant and drink after hours in the Next bar. He bought the Red Houscas a nearby retreat for designers and buyers whose long hours make commuting to distant homes impossible. "Our best friends are within the company," said one couple. "It is like a big family. We all had such a level of commitment. We'll probably continue, we just have to wait and see how the new regime treats us. It's all a very fine line and if it doesn't work out we'll look elsewhere."

Davies was always scathing about the type of employees who queue by the doors at 5pm, and impatient at questions of life beyond work.

"What else is there? Outside work Liz and I talk shop all the time. Retailing is a very fearful business. If I have a bad set of figures on Saturday night we talk it through."

A typical weekday evening would be spent discussing new ventures with other couples around the mock street of Next shops at the heart of the company headquarters, followed by a working supper at the Casa Romana in Leicester. Employees describe Davies as

a terrific motivator: "The most enthusiastic about every new project," said one, "and the last to leave."

Davies was fond of saying that Next broke all the old rules. "It's a business built on trust - we are not big on things like worrying about what people spend on trips. We don't have unions, we all work together. Liz and I working together created an atmosphere where it was acceptable for husbands and wives to work together." Now the couple-teams are waiting to see whether that will vanish along with "George" and "Liz".

## Playing old games

Toytown has gone traditional and thrifty, with dolls and soldiers running pricey hi-tech games out of the nursery

During the past year, there has been a quiet, parent-powered revolution in toyland. Both in Britain and in the transatlantic home of the hi-tech toy, the United States, sales have been slack for £100-plus electronics but encouraging for the good old-fashioned favourites that mums and dads cut their teeth on. "The average spend is around £16 this year," says Hamleys public relations manager, Jo Grummitt. "There has definitely been a move away from expensive toys."

"Parents have simply realized that a \$100 toy doesn't give 10 times the play value of a \$10 toy," says Susan Butenhoff, spokeswoman for Lewis Galoob Toys in the US. Galoob's Bouncing Babies, seven-inch, battery-operated dolls, are best-sellers at \$10 each, as are its Micro Machines, very popular in Britain, and with sales of more than 100 million worldwide.

There has been a return to what is known in the trade as "gender specific" toys, with girls going for Barbie (who, at 30, is older than many of their mothers) and boys for Action Man, GI Joe and the like. Traditional dolls, soft toys, kitchen sets and Lego are all selling extremely well.

Too many retailers - and customers - got stung by hi-tech toys that did not live up to their promise or their price-tag.

The industry learnt the hard way - with many "New Age" toy firms in Silicon Valley, California going bust - that there is no use in developing blockbusters without the necessary building blocks for success. Basic toys mean steady - if unspectacular - growth, and many manufacturers welcome this after years of fits and failures.



Dolls rule: little girls go back to their grandmothers' favourites

**A return to 'gender specific' toys means girls are going for Barbie and boys for Action Man**

Mattel's Captain Power - the electronic game that allows your television to make toys "come to life" in the living room - has been among the worst casualties of the revolution in play values, and few mourn him.

What is selling wonderfully is Mattel's Barbie (from £5.99 to £11.99), Kenner Parker's Real Ghostbusters - which sold out at Hamleys and most toy shops long before Christmas - costing from £3.34 to about £40 for the complete Fire Station; good old Scalextric remote-controlled cars (less than £40), Paddington Bears (from £3.99), and

cuddly Floppits hand puppets (between £11 and £14).

But the top selling item at Hamleys has been the Neighbours board game at £12.99. "And there's been a great revival of the battery operated walkie-talkie systems for £23.99," Grummitt says, "with chemistry sets at £12.99 and £19.99 and a little Shayette colouring board at between £2 and £3.25 also among our best-sellers."

Tiny toy soldiers are simply marching out of Hamleys - but this is no indication of children's tastes. "When we had a competition to win some over the summer almost all the entries were from men," Grummitt reports.

And at F.A.O. Schwartz, New York's top toy store - where queues stretch around the block and a doorman dressed like a Grenadier Guard keeps out the crowds - has been given over to a toy that only the most elderly American parents will recall: Howdy Doodly, a character who enjoyed a television series back in the 1950s.

Victoria McKee

## "Our son was like a caged animal. Barnardo's turned him into a little boy."



"Alex was caged within himself, withdrawn and terribly disruptive. It was frustration that he couldn't hear us, he couldn't talk to us."

"He had two moods, one where he was rushing around and breaking things, the other where he would never leave my side."

"He shattered the back window twice in a few weeks - he just didn't understand it was wrong."

"I used to get up in the mornings and think 'How am I going to cope'. Then his speech therapist suggested we see a Barnardo's Day Care Centre."

The aim of Barnardo's Day Care Centres is to care for children between 2 and 5 with special needs. They may be at risk in some way, or have specific disabilities.

"At first I said no, because it was admitting that something was wrong with our child, but you'll do anything if it is going to help."

We try to maintain a ratio of one carer to three or four children, but our

parents are the experts. They know their children better than we ever can, so they're always welcome, and we learn a lot from them.

"My immediate and lasting impression when we first arrived was that I no longer had to apologise for Alex - they'd seen it all before. Every child is accepted for what they are, it's as if no behaviour could disrupt or dismay the Barnardo's staff."

It's a 50/50 operation with the parents. An individual profile is drawn up, identifying the areas of development for each child. We discuss their progress constantly and the notes and

plans are always available for parents to see.

"When Alex went in he had a vocabulary of 20 words if you listened hard. He was hard to handle, and not much pleasure to be with. Now he's a happy and lovable little boy, and his vocabulary is huge."

Alex spent eighteen months coming to the Day Care Centre, and he's now in a proper school.

"His metamorphosis is almost complete. We recently attended a christening, and for the first time I didn't have to slip out of the church with him. I watched my son, and was proud of him."

"If it wasn't for Barnardo's I don't know what would have happened to us."



**Barnardos**  
Give young people a chance

## Seasonal misgivings

At this time of year I often remember, with fondness, a rather dotty ex-sister-in-law of mine who was a mistress of the art of misgiving. She gave new meaning to the expression "generous to a fault" as her extravagance knew no bounds, as did her knack of presenting her loved ones with gift-wrapped non-goodies that they needed as much as a bad case of shingles.

One Christmas, obviously forgetting that I take a size 10 and dress exclusively in black cotton jersey, she bought me a dirndl skirt in a wispy-washy blue silk, size 16. Since I did not know any gossamer with a taste for pastel colours, the skirt ended up as a set of cushion covers, and there were still several metres of fabric left over. On another occasion she presented my husband, who was recuperating from a by-pass operation and had been put on a low fat, low protein diet, with a delicious salami, glistening with calories.

I forgive her. It is so much easier to find the absolutely wrong present than the obviously right one and not a shopping day goes by without



my stumbling upon something that I know someone of my acquaintance will loathe like poison. I think gift manufacturers are aware of this too.

I have recently seen an ad for something called a Be My Guest Restaurant Gift Certificate which carries the slogan "This season, see that your people get their just desserts", which is ambiguous to say the least. The Be My Guest scheme allows the donor to pay for a friend to eat in a restaurant. Even now, I can hear a lot of people thinking that this would be just the thing for dear old Jim who spends evening after evening dining off tomato soup and mini-doughnuts.

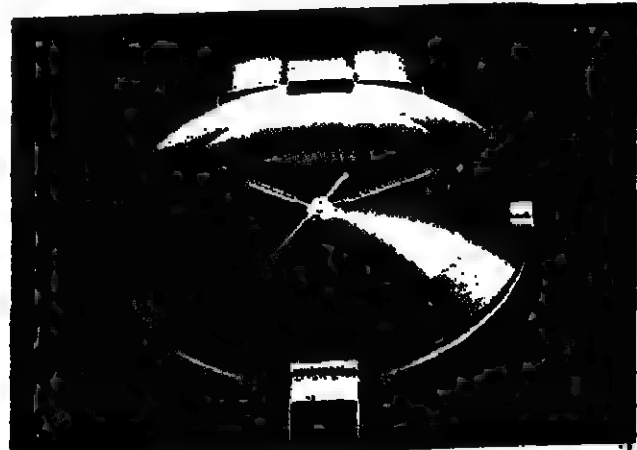
As they slip the Be My Guest Certificate inside a holly-sprigged card, it does not occur to them that Jim lives the way he does because he hates the bother of decipher-

ing a menu featuring things called arigula and tahini, hates not being able to read a book while he eats and hates being in the same room as a tableful of merchant bankers and their ladies who are discussing the British Steel share issue. Giving him the chance of eating in a good restaurant is like giving him the chance to walk the plank.

Since people's desires are limited (Dear Santa, The only thing I want is a man who will read aloud to me whole chapters of *Love in the Time of Cholera* while I am finishing off my patchwork), it becomes harder and harder to invent gift ideas that will part a fool from his money. Every year, *Private Eye* presents a double page of "joke" ads as part of Gnome's Xmas Mail Mart but this year the "products" don't seem as weird as they usually do because of their marked resemblance to the real gifts featured in catalogues such as *Premiere*, which arrive with every batch of junk mail. For instance, Gnome promotes the "Pizz-O-Laze", which "cuts pizza cleanly into tidy easy-to-eat portions, leaving no messy melted cheese to spill on to expensive clothing. Using a BFBX Neutron Laser, Pizz-O-Laze cuts through regular, deep pan and thin crust varieties without any need for adjustment."

This is hardly more fanciful than *Premiere's* "Machstrom", "a plasma sculpture that is responsive to both sound and touch: a glass sphere containing an antenna which generates fluorescent ions. These react with extremely rare gases to create blazing, coloured cascades of plasma particles." Just the thing to give somebody who suffers from nervous headaches.

My favourite gift idea this season is the electric envelope opener, designed for those hotheaded flowers who constantly sigh: "I can hardly find the strength to open an envelope". But they are not likely to receive this handy gadget. Such is the spirit of malice and malevolence that infests yuletide that the people who are most likely to get an envelope opener in their Christmas stockings, inscribed with a card which says, "I thought you might find this useful" are those hunk of men who like to boast that they can rip telephone directories in half with their little fingers.



### A Watch From Another World

Rado 'La Coupole', a new watch with stunning, trendsetting design, as if it came from another world. Innovative, clear-cut with a scratchproof dome-shaped sapphire crystal covering the entire watch surface. Feather light it hugs your wrist as if it was part of you. See the new Rado 'La Coupole' at your nearest Rado dealer.

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If you'd like further information or would like to make a donation, write to: Barnardo's, Tanners Lane, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex IG6 1QG





## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
December 17: The Queen was represented by His Excellency Sir David Wilson (Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Hong Kong) at the Memorial Service for Sir David Trench (formerly Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Hong Kong) which was held in St John's Cathedral, Hong Kong, this morning.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
December 17: The Prince and Princess of Wales attended a "Musicians for Armenia" concert at the Barbican Centre in aid of the Armenian earthquake victims.

Sir John Riddell, Bt, was in attendance.

The Princess Royal is to be President of the Council for National Academic Awards.

## Birthdays today

Sir Antony Buck, QC, MP, 60; Lord Dulverton, 73; Dame Catherine Hall, former general secretary, Royal College of Nursing, 66; Brigadier L.J. Harris, cartographer, 78; Mr Gordon Jackson, actor, 65; Sir William Murray, civil servant, 85; the Marquess of Queensbury, 59; Count Edward Rzesniewski, former president, Polish government-in-exile, 97; the Right Rev Dr G.E. Reindorp, former Bishop of Salisbury, 77; Sir David Rowland, former Lord Mayor of London, 53; Lord Swaythling, 90; Sir John Tiley, former MP, 81.

## Today's royal engagements

Prince and Princess Michael of Kent will attend the 1988 Olympia International Show Jumping Championships at 6.50.

Princess Michael of Kent will attend the Variety Club of Great Britain Preview of the Jim Davidson Pantomime at the Dominion Theatre at 2.30.

## Memorial service

The Right Rev Felix Arnott, the Archbishop of Canterbury was represented by the Right Rev Simon Phipps who celebrated Requiem Eucharist for the Right Rev Felix Arnott in Chichester Cathedral on Saturday.

This Bishop of Chichester was the principal concelebrant. The Right Rev Edward Knapp-Fisher, also representing the co-chairmen and members of the First Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission, gave an address. Canon Roger Greenacre, Chancellor, representing the Dean of Chichester, the Archbishop of Chichester and the Very Rev Gilbert Thurlow also took part in the service.

Dr Roger Lane, brother-in-law, read the lesson. The Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe was represented by Mr Peter Storck.

## Service luncheon

7th (Durham) Battalion The Light Infantry Lieutenant Colonel J. Sewers and Officers of the 7th (Durham) Battalion The Light Infantry dined in at Redcliffe Camp, Northumberland, on Saturday. Lieutenant-General Sir Peter de la Billiere, Colonel Commandant the Light Division, was the principal guest and Major A.W. Charlton presided.

## Forthcoming marriages

**Mr D.H.A. Blow and Miss L. Delves Broughton**  
The engagement is announced between Detmar, elder son of the late Mr Jonathan Blow, of Hillies House, Stroud, Gloucestershire, and Mrs Helen Blaw Ratna Gopal, and Isabella, eldest daughter of Sir Evelyn Delves Broughton, and Lady Helen Lady Delves Broughton.

**Mr F.C. Morgan-Wins and Miss D.M. Miles**  
The engagement is announced between Paul, only son of Mr and Mrs Morgan-Wins, of Kensington, and Davina, only daughter of Sir Peter and Lady Miles, of Mill House, Southrop.

**Mr J.W. Atwood and Miss M.J. Isaac**  
The engagement is announced between Jonathan William, younger son of Mr and Mrs Derrick Atwood, of Shoreham, Kent, and Mary-Jane, elder daughter of Mrs Betty Isaac, of Amberley, Gloucestershire, and the late Mr John Isaac.

**Mr J.B.B. Blake and Miss L. Hewitson**  
The engagement is announced between Rupert, son of Mr Richard Blake and the late Mrs Gillie Blake, formerly of Ockham, Surrey (now of the Mill House, Pithcombe, Gloucestershire), and Lisa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Daughters Heibourne, of London, W3 and Leiston, Warwickshire.

**Mr R.B. Bodie and Miss S.M. Jones-Parry**  
The engagement is announced between Christopher, youngest son of Mrs M.B. Rossini, of New York, and the late Mr Earl C. Bodie, of Newland, Gloucestershire, and the late Mr John Isaac.

**Mr S.W. Edwards and Miss P.M. Questier**  
The engagement is announced between Sean William, elder son of Mr and Mrs G.W. Edwards, and Paula Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.P. Questier.

Aidan Nichols  
Lessons of the Lefebvre affair

Schisms, like heresies, may contain a truth. What lessons might the Roman Catholic Church draw from the Lefebvre debacle? One it might learn is that of the continuing potential of the idea of the Christian State.

The heart of Lefebvre's quarrel with the Second Vatican Council (1962-5) lies in its "Declaration of Religious Freedom", described by him as the "true apple of discord", whence flow all his other problems with the conciliar reform.

According to Lefebvre, the council, though paying lip-service to the earlier concept of the confessional State, effectively pronounced that citizens as citizens, even in an overwhelmingly Catholic country, need not concern themselves with divine revelation, which affects only their private lives.

So all the church should seek from civil society is freedom of action in the propagation of its own faith. It does not ask that the State in any way underwrites its own beliefs and ethics as true and just. By thus emancipating the individual conscience from the objective demands of Christian revelation — so Lefebvre holds — the council implicitly introduced the liberal principle of private judgement into the life of the Church, as well as into the (now) neutral realm of the State, and thus opened the way to the *à la carte* style of pick-and-choose approach to Catholic doctrine and discipline which is to some degree a feature of the post-conciliar Church.

In fact, the Declaration on Religious Freedom, whilst insisting that, because of the intrinsic dignity of the human person, even the erroneous conscience and its manifestations should be immune from civil interference (except where the common good or "public order" is at stake), did not by any means intend to dismantle the idea of the Christian State.

In retrospect, however, it can be admitted that it may have been excessively coy on the topic — understandably, given, for instance, the petty restrictions which Protestant churches suffered in its name in Francoist Spain.

In the course of this century, the

liberal State — that State which defines itself by its equidistance from all religions and wider value systems — has maintained itself only with difficulty against such forces as Marxism-Leninism, Fascism and Islamic fundamentalism.

Who knows what Godless and anti-humane ideologies may not surface in the future? With all necessary safeguards for the (conscientious) rights of minorities, should not the members of a largely Christian society, when acting as a civil community, seek to recognize and realize the will of God, both natural and revealed, just as they do in private individuals?

Some of the most influential voices in contemporary Catholicism seem to echo this question. The Pope appeals for the European nations to recover their spiritual roots in Christian civilization; Cardinal Ratzinger, the papacy's doctrinal guardian, calls on the State to admit the public relevance of Christian tradition in its law-making; Latin American liberation theology, with its reluctance to distinguish the profane duties of the citizen from the obligations of the believer, agrees with them at least in this.

Yet, the differences between them show, reassuringly, that, even when there is broad agreement on the essence of a Christian State, there can be considerable disagreement over the form which public policy should take within it. There must be room for a plurality of political options within the believing community, and *a fortiori*, for those outside it.

A confessional State must not be a confessional State — with all the latter's overtones of sectarianism and repression. By this distinction, wavering supporters of Lefebvre may be assured of the fundamental continuity in the Church's social doctrine, and detached from their dependence on such dubious ideal commonwealths as Salazar's Portugal or Pinochet's Chile.

The other lesson which the Catholic Church can draw from the Lefebvre affair concerns, as Cardinal Hume with his Benedictine heart was quick to surmise, the worship of a Christian

society — for the quality of that worship is what shows us the vision of the God-world relationship which such a society entertains.

The historic Latin Mass was, in its literary, musical and dramatic totality, the highest achievement of Latin Christian civilization. It was a paradigm (not, certainly, the only one) of what a graced culture can achieve. Its replacement by a simplified vernacular liturgy was carried out with such lack of feeling for what divine worship demands as to suggest that one or more of C.S. Lewis's Screwtape demons had been at work.

Allowance must be made for the fact that most Western vernaculars are now better suited to the needs of technology and instant communication than to the poet's dwelling in the house of being, and for the partial atrophy of musical composition for the liturgy in the Roman Church. Yet it was hardly necessary that the Western rite be reduced to no Geneva an austerity in rhetoric and gesture.

Lefebvre is not unjustified in fearing that, in such a liturgical climate, the two great ideas which have sustained Catholic eucharistic devotion (and so Catholics themselves), namely, the eucharistic sacrifice and the real presence, will, in some places, survive only by a moral miracle. Much work will have to be done, and sometimes re-done, by translators, musicians, catechists and preachers, if the *Sacramentum*, this Blessed Sacrament, is to retain that symbolic position which allows its full meaning and awesome reality to be appreciated.

The Tridentine rite, now made once again generally available to those faithful who wish it, should help to set standards in this, but it is the revised liturgy, with its simpler possibilities for active participation, which will remain the staple diet of parishes and religious houses and so must become the ultimate beneficiary. It must be made the worthy successor of its predecessors, and not their poor relation.

Aidan Nichols, OP, is a Dominican priest of Blackfriars, Cambridge.

## OBITUARIES

## RIGHT REV CYRIL EASTHAUGH

Bishop who opposed union with Methodists

The Right Rev Cyril Easthaugh, MC, who was Bishop of Peterborough from 1961 to 1972 and a strong opponent of proposals for uniting the Church of England and the Methodist Church, died on December 16 at the age of 90.

He spoke out against many of the changes in moral and social values which marked the decade of the 1960s in particular and which he found disturbing.

He was a consistent opponent of the proposed Anglican-Methodist union scheme and played a leading part in its defeat in the Church Assembly, yet he encouraged bold experiments in pastoral cooperation within his Peterborough diocese, including a scheme at Desborough, which was the first place in Britain to be designated an official area of ecumenical experiment, and in the creation of an ecumenical parish at Dunsborough, Corby.

Cyril Easthaugh — he adopted the spelling Easthaugh in 1983 — was born in South London on December 22, 1897, the youngest in a family of 13 children. He won a scholarship to Archbishop Temple's Grammar School, then housed in Leicestershire Square, and at the age of 17 joined the Army. He was subsequently commissioned in the South Bedfordshire Regiment and served in France; he was wounded at Cambrai and was only 19 when he won the Military Cross.

He worked in business for a time after the war, before deciding to seek ordination. He then read theology at Christ Church, Oxford and trained at Cuddesdon Theological College, Oxford.

He was ordained in 1929 and served as curate of St John



the Divine, Kennington for two years before returning to Cuddesdon firstly as Chaplain and later as Vice-Principal.

Easthaugh was a high churchman and by this time was becoming a prominent member of the Anglo-Catholic wing of the Church of England. He left Cuddesdon in 1935 to return as vicar of St John the Divine, a noted Anglo-Catholic parish.

He was consecrated as Suffragan Bishop of Kensington on November 1, 1949 at a service in Westminster Abbey conducted by the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr (later Lord) Fisher, assisted by 18 bishops. He remained there for the next 12 years until his translation to the Peterborough diocese in 1961.

Tall and distinguished in appearance, Easthaugh

quickly adapted to the demands of a diocese that was largely rural but included expanding industrial areas and he became a popular bishop.

He was a widely travelled man, visiting South Africa, the Middle East and most European countries, and in 1969 he undertook a five-week lecturing and preaching tour of the United States at the invitation of the American Church Union, during which he covered 18,000 miles.

Easthaugh married in 1948 Lady Laura Palmer, daughter of the third Earl of Selborne. On his retirement from Peterborough in 1972 they went to live at his wife's family home at Blackmore, Hampshire.

He is survived by his wife, a son and two daughters.

## ERNEST LE QUESNE HERBERT

Expert in oil refining techniques

Ernest Le Quesne Herbert, the industrialist and petroleum expert who was responsible for co-ordinating all Shell's refineries throughout Britain during the Second World War, died on December 13 aged 86.

His post-war work as managing director of the Shell refining company was marked by substantial advancement in petroleum and petrochemical techniques.

Ernest Le Quesne Herbert was born in 1902 at Newcastle upon Tyne where for simplicity's sake his parents had added Herbert to their ancestral Channel Islands surname of Le Quesne. He read chemistry at Heriot-Watt College and on graduating joined the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company in 1922.

In 1927 he joined the Shell Group and was immediately

posted to Mexico where during the next 12 years as a refinery manager he tackled the hazardous problems to which plant and personnel were in those days exposed. His skilful proposals for protection against a whole range of toxic and explosive gases and vapours had far-reaching effects.

A year before the outbreak of the war Herbert returned to Britain to manage the Shell Haven plant at Stanlow, Essex. It was soon thereafter that he was called to Shell Refineries' London headquarters to take responsibility for wartime operations.

After the war he added the rapidly-growing petrochemical industry to his concerns and in 1955 he became both managing director of Shell

Refining Company and executive director of Shell Chemicals in charge of manufacture.

Herbert was vice-president of both the Institute of Petroleum and the Institution of Chemical Engineers. He was president of the Royal Institute of Chemistry (forerunner of the Royal Society of Chemistry) from 1959 to 1961.

He was an enthusiastic educationalist as well and at the first awards ceremony at the new Heriot-Watt University in 1966 was made an Honorary Doctor of Science. He was Chairman of Council of the University of Bath for many years.

He is survived by his wife Vera, whom he married in 1930, and by two of his three children.

## ELIZABETH RAWSON

Roman historian and biographer of Cicero

Elizabeth Rawson, FBA, a distinguished Roman historian who had been Fellow and Tutor in Ancient History at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, since 1960, died suddenly of natural causes in Beijing on December 10.

With a typical combination of courage and curiosity about a different culture, she had accepted an invitation to teach classics for a term at Nanhai University, and was about to return home at the moment of her death.

Born in 1934 into a highly intellectual London family with Italian connections and educated at St Paul's Girls School and Somerville College, Oxford, she gained Firsts in Classics, Honour Moderations in 1954 and Greats in

1956. After periods spent in Germany and at the British School in Rome, she became in 1959 a research fellow of New Hall, Cambridge, and in 1967 a college lecturer and fellow.

In 1969 she published her stimulating and wide-ranging book *The Spartan Tradition in European Thought*. Her interests already lay on the borderland between political history, social and cultural history and literary studies.

The 1970s saw the publication of a long series of articles on the Roman Republic, some of them of major importance, and of her semi-popular *Cicero: A Portrait* — good on its subject's political career, but above all masterly on his background and education.

## KENNETH BURTON

Kenneth Burton, who died on December 10, aged 74, played an influential but unpublicised role in representing private sector interests to the Government — first as a member of the staff of the British Employers' Confederation, of which he was Secretary from 1949-1961, and then in the pensions world he became a prominent secretary.

Educated at Latymer Upper School, he qualified as an actuary in 1937. He joined the

Territorial Army before the outbreak of war, and served in the Royal Artillery in North Africa and Europe; he was mentioned in despatches.

In the immediate post-war years he devoted his energy and intellect to the British Employers' Confederation, which he represented both in this country and overseas.

He was a member of the UK delegation to the International Labour Conference 1946-53; joint managing director of the

Anglo-American Council on Productivity 1948-52; and a member of the British Productivity Council, 1952-61.

When plans were made for the Employers' Confederation to become part of the Confederation of British Industry, Burton returned to the actuarial profession and eventually became senior partner of Lane Clark and Peacock, a firm of consulting actuaries.

He was unmarried.



Mr Robert Morley, the actor, enjoying a portrait of Dame Gladys Cooper, his mother-in-law, playing the Second Mrs Tanqueray in 1922, in the new Gladys Cooper bar at The Playhouse theatre, London, yesterday. The distinguished actress was manager of the Playhouse from 1927-33 and this year is the centenary of her birth.

## Munch's Vampire comes to light

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

"Vampire", a ghoulish painting by the Norwegian artist Edvard Munch worth £1 million, has been returned safely to the Munch Museum in Oslo after being stolen last February. It has been the subject of seven months of abortive and often comic efforts by the Norwegian police to retrieve it.

The painting, which shows a young woman sinking her teeth into the neck of a bearded man, was stolen by Paul Enger, a 21-year-old with gambling debts of £200,000. "He was being threatened by his creditors, and decided to steal the painting," said the museum's director, Mr Alf Boe, yesterday.

On the night of February 23, Enger drove to the museum,

broke a window, took the painting and fled.

"He hid it in one of his gambling saloons," said Mr Boe. "Then he left it in a parked van somewhere, and people were walking past with no idea it was there."

Meanwhile, the police thought they had struck lucky when they discovered what appeared to be the painting in the possession of a group of young revellers packing their friend into a train. It emerged that the painting — a fake — was part of a stag party prank.

The drama ended in September when Mr Enger gave himself up. "Vampire" will now be part of the celebrations of the anniversary of Munch's birth 125 years ago.

## Church news

## Appointments

The Rev James F. Whitwell, Priest-in-Charge, St Paul's Church, St Paul's, London, will be officiating at the wedding of Mr and Mrs P. J. Williams, to be celebrated on December 21 at St Paul's Church, London.

The Rev Canon Michael H. Gwynne, Vicar, Christ Church, Oxford, will be officiating at the wedding of Mr and Mrs D. J. Morris, to be celebrated on December 21 at Christ Church, Oxford.

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## The King's School Canterbury

## The Governors have appointed

Mr Richard Barton, at present Headmaster of Tavistock Hall School, Norwich, as Headmaster of the Junior King's School, Milner Court, from September 1, 1989 on the retirement of Mr George Robertson.

## Marriages

## The marriage took place on

Saturday at St Mary's, Chertsey, Dorset, of Mr P. Sebastian Kent, only son of the late Major Leonard Kent and of Mrs Kent, of Amesbury, Wiltshire, to Miss Emma W. Kent, only daughter of the late Mr P. Sebastian Kent, of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

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## THE ARTS

## Music with a message

## CONCERTS

Musicians for Armenia  
Barbican/Radio 3/  
BBC2

Never has so much been given so quickly by so many and in the view of such a large public. Forty-eight hours after the cultural attaché of the Soviet Embassy had alerted the British Association of Composers, Musicians and Artists, sponsored by *The Times*, was under way: within a week artists had been engaged, sponsors tracked down, fees and royalties waived and Royalty summoned.

At 11pm on Saturday it happened. In the presence of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and in the company of three long programme-pages full of named donors from the musical world, the English Chamber Orchestra and Andre Previn hosted a glamorous soiree of musical turns, composed by John Tusa. It was broadcast not only on Radio 3 and BBC2, but also transmitted through the World Service and on Moscow television.

In such an evening of extracts and party pieces, a *tour de force* of stage management was needed and duly provided. In order, for instance, to show the entire English Chamber Orchestra off the stage for the solitary presence of James Galway and Debussy's unaccompanied "Syrinx", Ronald Eyre had devised a near-choreographic routine for an army of men who appeared and reappeared to supply and conjure away chairs, music stands and a grand piano at any given moment. As some distraction from this



Metelav Rostropovich, with the cello section of the English Chamber Orchestra, after playing for Armenian earthquake victims

frenetic activity, recorded messages were beamed over from well-wishing musicians around the world. Faced with the impossible task of adequately expressing sympathy and empathy in a matter of seconds, Perlman spoke of sticking together; Menuhin assured the audience that he would donate the fee for his next two concerts to the fund; Sir Neville Marriner invoked Nostradamus and the international language of musicians; and Alfred Brendel, most simple and succinct of all, found his sober words juxtaposed to a repeated plea for credit card donations.

What really told, of course, was the music itself. Mozart's was the still, small voice of the evening: first Andrei Gavrilov's wonderfully simple account of the Fantasy in D minor; then Cho-liang Lin and Yuri Bashmet in the sombre monument of the second movement of the Sinfonia Concertante K364. Bashmet, whom we hear too seldom in Britain, had been flown over especially for the event, and brought with him a message from the composer Schnittke of love, respect and empathy for the Armenian people. His own viola playing, in its fine

modulation of timbres and its grace of phrasing, was the musical high point of the evening. The soprano Galina Vishnevskaya, now with a less finely tuned instrument at her command, nevertheless gave a performance of Tchaikovsky's "At the Ball" that was deeply moving in the instinctive artistry behind its intimate, intense conversation. She was accompanied at the piano by Rostropovich who, later in the evening, took the solo part and directed the cellos of the ECO in the Bachianas Brasileiras No 1 by Villa-Lobos. He then incarnated the evening's purpose in

an unexpected and personally introduced solo. In memory of the 1963 summer he and his wife had spent in Armenia with Britten and Pears, and for all who had died, he played the finale from Britten's Third Cello Suite, based on the orthodox Konakion for the dead. The rest was not silence. With a sharp ear for dramatic timing typical of the programme as a whole, Barry Douglas joined the ECO for a gently but insistently optimistic performance of the last movement of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 1.

Hilary Finch

## Rapping the knuckles

## RADIO

I may not always hear it, but when *The Radio Programme* (Radio 4; producer, Keith Jones) goes off the air — as it has done until February — the listening week becomes a slightly duller place. Laurie Taylor and his crew set a tone which suggests that, even when they are handing out the brickbats, the basic enterprise of radio is a very jolly and interesting thing.

If I have a bone to pick with them, it is an impression they sometimes give that any programme not as bright and brisk as their own is therefore a bit of a dullard. *Medicine Now*, I remember, got a bit of a pasting. Later, *Science Now* obtained a similar verdict, while more recently, in relation to *Open Mind* (Radio 4; Sundays; producer, Emily Bu-

chanan), the feeling seemed to be that it would be a better programme if it were a good deal zippier. So, to adopt a seasonal metaphor, on the three occasions I can pin down *The Radio Programme* has displayed a greater interest in the wrapping than the gift. But, in general, I think the style of presentation adopted by all these programmes is just about right. Above all, it is serviceable; it starts from a belief that the material is interesting and worth talking about; it assumes that its listeners

share that belief and that they will therefore tune in and stay tuned without constantly having to be cajoled and excited. When it comes to presentation, few broadcasts are so short of opportunities for it as a series of Keith Jones's. There it is content or nothing. Looking back on this year's series, Professor Geoffrey Hosking has provided every possible attraction. He turned a good

sentence and delivered it well, but his talks have held the attention as no previous series I can recall because of what they said. His knowledgeable view of the Soviet Union has been irresistible, although I have no doubt that it gained impetus from what could not necessarily have been anticipated: the extent to which each lecture seemed to be a commentary on what the news media have been feeding us every day. Against this background, Stalin's Mercy by James Greene (Radio 3, Sunday; director, John

Theodoris) came as a cautionary reminder. It consisted of seven scenes or vivid glimpses from the life of the Russian poet Osip Mandelstam, who suffered Stalin's persecution and eventually died of it 50 years ago on his way to Siberia and a concentration camp. In many respects it covered familiar ground, but this is an area of recent history that never loses its power to appeal by its combination of lunacy, stupidity, cruelty and ruthlessness. And, of course, to recreate it is to describe a yesterday etched into many Soviet people's hearts out of which Gorbachev is now trying to wrench a new tomorrow. It certainly subdues any optimism.

David Wade

## Northern celebrations

## OPERA

The Pearl Fishers/  
Aida  
Opera North

To celebrate the passage of 10 years and 71 operas (for which they deserve the heartiest congratulations and best wishes for the future), Opera North presented *The Pearl Fishers*. Sally Day co-directed Philip Prowse's ENO production of last year, but with the sets trimmed and the original French libretto restored.

Their problem is that by eliminating the traditional final scene (largely the work of Benjamin Godard) and returning to Bizet's original they are left with a dramatically weak ending — which was of course the reason for the revision. To cope with that they must invent a new character, Leila's decorative predecessor as the Fishers' votive virgin, who observes the whole proceedings and finally assassinates Zurga for his faithful deeds. And to make this in its turn credible they must generate an atmosphere of violence by adding a couple of terrorists as Zurga's accomplices. The effect is bizarre, but it seems to be the price of musicalological purity.

Anne Dawson, as Leila, may still have too small a voice to suit



Philip Prowse: reworking *Aida*

comfortably over Bizet's large orchestra; but she more than compensated by creating an extraordinary still atmosphere in her second act Cavatina — an atmosphere so captivating that her actions in the orchestral postlude seemed entirely misconceived.

Arthur Davies, adopting a French-style tenor delivery that came into its own only later in the evening, gave the role of Nadir considerably more force of character than the music sometimes suggests. And he needed to, because Sergei Leiferkins was reluctant to fall much below full voice in his otherwise persuasive and moving Zurga. David Lloyd-Jones conducted with a particularly sharp ear for those inventive orchestral touches that are the real justification for reviving Bizet's early score.

Opera North's production of

*Aida* sometimes seems as though it should be retitled *Amneris* when Sally Burgess performs. That is largely because so much of her singing and acting is in an entirely different class from virtually everything around her. In the first act, tentative performances from John Tranter as Ramfis, John Treleven as Radames, Mark Givens as the King and Janice Cairns as Aida left one feeling that hers were the only pitches and words that were at all distinguishable. And the chorus were on a dismally undisciplined form. But that all changed with the arrival of Keith Latham, whose impressive Amnaso has taken on new power since the production was first mounted two years ago.

In re-staging it, Philip Prowse has eliminated the ridiculous blind-man's-buff scene during the dance numbers of the triumphal procession and called in a stylish ballet troupe. He seems also to have modified the last act, as though to counter the complaint that Amneris has too much prominence.

Whatever the reason, Sally Burgess became considerably less incisive and muffled several important dramatic points. But by then the remainder of the cast had settled down. Under Clive Timm's direction, the Opera North Orchestra reaffirmed their still growing reputation.

David Fallows

## Players pass the groan test

## THEATRE

The Sleeping Beauty  
Players' Theatre

Like the Christmas Day carol service, the Players' annual Victorian panto pulls in a good many people who never go near the place for the rest of the year, and for whom it now comes as quite a shock to join the faithful at their new place of worship, the Duchess Theatre.

Thanks to an advantageous deal with the Villiers Street developers, the Players have been able to duplicate the song and supper room atmosphere and enlarge their seating capacity. But they have not managed to transplant the ramshackle charm of their old home — that long, sloping tunnel, with drinks tables by the seats, and the rumble of trains over Hungerford Bridge. Also, the routine has changed: no chairman, no music-hall prologue, no toast to Victoria: nothing but the panto

itself, with the danger of exposing a previously well-cushioned museum piece to a house of sharp-eyed observers.

Planché's "original, grand, fairy extravaganza" (I abbreviate) comes through this set pretty well. It has a low count in groan-puns, but boasts some well-turned rhymes and some couplets that have blossomed beyond the author's expectations ("Since he came a cropper/He can't use his chopper"). The story gets staunch operatic support, and offers some pleasing narrative twists, such as

who seduces the turnkey into releasing the princess for her faithful spinning lesson; and the King's awakening to find he has become a royal back number.

Reginald Woolley directs with an appreciation for the delicate fun Planché has to offer, without patronage or pushing for big laughs. The fun is mainly musical, and the company has the voices for it; particularly Catherine McCord and Janet Evans, as the fairies Baneful and Antidote, doing each other down in a Rossini crescendo in the course of a wand duel. A trio of knitting woodcutters also makes its mark as a soulful chorus for the Prince's love ballad. Congratulations to Susan Graham Smith for her work on the giant Steizway.

Irving Wardle

## TELEVISION

## Down and out

Professional wrestling may be defined as two grovelling contriving excessively complicated ways of sitting on each other's faces while a third practices counting up to 10. As a weekly academy for stuntmen to hone their counterfeiting skills, it may well have had practical value; as a spectacle, its appeal derived from the morality play and its descendant, pantomime.

On Saturday, ITV pulled the plug on 33 years' coverage with *The Final Bell*, in which honey-voiced Kent Walton introduced a storehouse of archive clips, from the ballet dancer Ricki Starr, through "Leon Armes" (aka Brian Glover) to current megastars such as Giant Haystacks.

Bizarrely organized, with most bouts coming from the mid-1970s, the programme gave little chance to see how the "sport" has changed over the decades. Perhaps it has not. The wrestler who pulled down the curtain with a speech expressing the great sadness felt by the wrestling classes adverted to grapple fans watching "in your parlours".

*The Explorers: A Century of Discovery* (BBC2) blew the muffled trumpets of the National Geographic Society, renowned for its deep interest in ethnic breasts and gutsy captions. An appropriately sentimental voice-over from E.C. Marshall disclosed that a print run for a single issue of the society's magazine would raise a stack 53 miles high. As its first editor once declared, "The mind must see before it can believe".

Try telling that to young devotees of the Father Christmas cult. *Everyman* (BBC1, yesterday) sniffed mystically at the topic of Santa Claus, his character and origins. The programme provided a lengthy commercial for Raymond Briggs's cartoon book in which the bringer of gifts appears as an over-worked grinch. Briggs would like to retire to an Andersen shelter for the duration of festivities. Yehudi Menuhin, conversely, sees Christmas as "a time for cultivating emotions". This was quite the most nauseating remark of the weekend.

Martin Cropper

Christmas and  
New Year at the  
Royal Opera House

## THE ROYAL OPERA

**Semele**

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and the Friends of Covent Garden (1982)

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Dec 22, 28, 30, Jan 3, 7

at 7.00pm

**Rigoletto**

Verdi, in Italian with English subtitles

New production sponsored by

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7.30pm

Semele photo: Zoe Domitric

## THE ROYAL BALLET

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Total Credit Price	£5798.84	£7869.08	£8976.36	£10040.60
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48 Monthly Payments of	£173.58	£188.17	£190.84	£223.24
Charge for Credit	£2000.64	£2168.96	£2199.52	£2573.12
Total Credit Price	£9914.64	£10747.96	£10900.52	£12751.12
<b>6.9% (13.4% APR)</b>				
Initial Payment (Minimum 20%)	£1582.80	£1715.80	£1740.20	£2035.60
36 Monthly Payments of	£212.27	£230.11	£233.38	£273.00
Charge for Credit	£1310.52	£1420.76	£1440.88	£1685.60
Total Credit Price	£9224.52	£9999.76	£10141.88	£11863.60
<b>3.9% (7.5% APR)</b>				
Initial Payment (Minimum 50%)	£3957.00	£4289.50	£4350.50	£5089.00
24 Monthly Payments of	£177.74	£192.67	£195.41	£228.58
Charge for Credit	£308.76	£334.58	£339.34	£396.92
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Due to demand some models might be in short supply.

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These Low Rate Finance Plans are subject to credit approval and apply to Fiesta, Orion and Escort cars and estate cars registered between December 8th 1988 and March 15th 1989 and which are subject to Conditional Sale Agreements arranged by participating Ford dealers and underwritten by Ford Motor Credit Company Limited, Regent House, 1 Hubert Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4QL. Applicants must be over 18 years of age and credit worthy. Please note various factory fitted options and Ford's optional warranties (Extra Cover or Extra Cover Plus) are available at extra cost. \*Maximum retail price as at November 1988 including delivery. Delivery is to Dealer premises with exception of Channel Islands and Isle of Wight when a further charge will be made.







## TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear  
and Jane Rackham

## BBC1

- 6.30** *Cee-eez AM*.  
**6.40** *Leon Errol in Birthday Blues* (TV). 6.55 *Weather*.  
**7.00** *Breakfast Time* with Kirsty Wark and Jeremy Paxman. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 7.55 and 8.25 regional news and travel bulletins at 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27. 8.35 Regional news and weather.  
**9.00** News and weather followed by *Open Air*. Eamonn Holmes and Natalie Angley receive viewers' comments on the weekend's television programmes. 9.20 *Kilroy! Robert Kilroy-Silk* chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject.  
**10.00** News and weather followed by *The Pink Panther Show* (TV). 10.25 *Children's BBC* introduced by Andy Crane begins with *Playhouse*. 10.50 *Pudding* narrated by Sir Michael Hordern (TV). 10.55 *Five to Eleven*. Judi Dench with one of her favourite Christmas readings.  
**11.00** News and weather followed by *Open Air* with Eamonn Holmes, Patti Colwell and Natalie Angley.  
**12.00** News and weather followed by *Daytime Line* including a festive spread prepared by the celebrated French chef Raymond Blanc. 12.55 Regional news and weather.  
**1.00** *One O'Clock News* with Philip Hayton. Weather. 1.30 *Highway*. Mike and Mrs Mangel has an altercation with Marge that causes her great distress. 1.50 *Going for Gold*. Semi-final week of the European general knowledge quiz.  
**2.15** *Flame Spirit of the Wild* (1976) starring Dan Haggerty and Denver Pyle. Adventure yarn about a 19th-century south-western States mountain man living in the wild and confronting with nature. Directed by Richard Friedenberg.

## BBC2

- 9.00** *Cee-eez*.  
**12.00** *Film: Room Service* (1938, b/w) starring the Marx Brothers and Lucille Ball. Comedy about an impoverished Broadway impresario. Directed by William A. Seiter.  
**1.15** *Cartoon 1.15* *The Adventures of Spot* (TV). 1.30 *What's Inside?* (TV). 1.40 *History*. *Stark's Oxford Castle*, Suffolk (TV).  
**1.45** *The First Noels*. Rediscovered carols presented by Sir Geraint Evans and the Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford (TV).  
**2.00** News and weather followed by *Songs of Praise* (TV). (Cee-eez) 2.40 *Holiday Delights* (TV). 2.50 *Tom Postels*. Middleton-in-Terrace (TV).  
**3.00** *International Pro-Celebrity* (TV).  
**4.00** *International Show Jumping* from Olympia 4.45 *Behind the Screen* with Rob Culling.  
**4.50** *Film: Charlie Chan in Rio* (1938, b/w) starring Sidney Toler. The oriental sleuth investigates a murder among a deluge of divorcees. Directed by Norman Foster.

## TV LONDON

- 8.00** TV-am begins with *News* and *The Morning Programme* introduced by Mike Morris. 7.00 *News* followed by *Good Morning Britain* presented by Mike Morris and Kathy Rootford. 8.00 *News*. 8.30 *News* and *After News*. Women's magazine series.  
**9.25** *Lucky Ladders*. Word association game. The host is Lennie Bennett. 9.55 *Thames* news and weather. 10.00 *The Time*. The Place. Mike Scott chairs a discussion on a topical subject.  
**10.40** *The Morning* presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's edition of the magazine series includes an item on small garden cars. Plus national news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55.  
**12.10** *Playboy* with Pat Coombe and Keith Chegwin. 12.30 *A Country Practice*. Medical series set in a remote Australian township.  
**1.00** *News* on One with Julia Somerville. 1.30 *Thames* news and weather.  
**1.30** *Film: The Ship's Wife* (1947, b/w) starring Gary Grant, Loretta Young and David Niven. Comedy about an angel who comes to earth to help a young shipboarder who has been too busy hand-fasting that he has lost touch with his parishioners and his wife. Directed by Henry Kostar.  
**2.30** *Thames* news and weather.  
**4.00** *Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends* (TV). 4.10 *The Rovers*. 4.30 *The Rovers*.  
**5.15** *Blockbusters*. General knowledge game for teenagers, presented by David Baddiel.  
**5.45** *News* with Fiona Armstrong.  
**6.30** *Thames* news and weather.  
**8.30** *Thames* news and weather. Bringing Kate Hughes with him.

## CHANNEL 4

- 9.30** *Film: My Favourite Blonde* (1942, b/w) starring Bob Hope. Comedy about a vaudeville comedian who becomes involved with an Allied spy. Directed by Sidney Lanfield.  
**10.35** *Film: My Little Chickadee* (1940, b/w) starring Mae West and W. C. Fields. Comedy about a young woman whose stagecoach is held up by a minor at the Royal Albert Hall.  
**12.30** *Business Daily*. Financial and business news service.  
**1.00** *Seamus*. Little Pre-school series.  
**2.00** *Film: The Little Princess* (1939) starring Shirley Temple as a Victorian orphan being harshly treated by her headmistress. Directed by Walter Lang.  
**3.45** *Years Ahead*. Includes interviews with Ben Warriss and Spike Milligan; and music from Joe Loss and his Big Band and the Oxford Youth Band.  
**4.30** *News*. 4.50 *Quiz*.  
**5.00** *The Late Late Show*. Dublin's music and chat show.  
**8.00** *The Muppet Show* (TV). Vintage American comedy series.

## An honourable system?

## TELEVISION CHOICE

With another honours list due in 10 days' time, *World in Action* (ITV, 8.30pm) takes a sceptical look at a system that often seems more intent on rewarding political loyalty than disinterested public service. The programme contrasts the knighthood bestowed on Sir Gordon Reece, Mrs Thatcher's former publicity director and the man who taught her to lower her voice on television, with the MBE awarded to Dr Pauline Cutting, heroine of Beirut, or the lowly British Empire Medal handed out to the fireman who broke his ribs rescuing people from the Bradford stadium fire. Nicholas Winter, the Conservative MP, suggests that the prospect of a knighthood is a way of buying off potential backbench rebels when the Government faces awkward Commons votes on matters like charges for eye tests. Under Mrs Thatcher no fewer than 83 Tory MPs have been knighted, but after this pro-



Honourable mentions: Pauline Cutting, who received only an MBE, and Sir Gordon Reece, who was knighted (ITV, 8.30pm)

gramme Mr Winter is unlikely to join them. *World in Action* also tries to establish a correlation between high honours and contributions to Conservative Party funds. Mr Winter further blows his chances by declaring that industrialists have been given knighthoods whom he would not have paid in wages. It may or may not be significant that the one-third of Britain's

companies who contribute to the Conservative Party have scooped two-thirds of top industrial honours. Dr David Owen scuppers his prospects of becoming Sir David by declaring that "Mrs Thatcher's use of the honours system would make Lloyd George blush - and Lloyd George didn't blush easily."

Peter Waymark

- 6.50** *Weather*, followed by *News*.  
**7.00** *Morning Concert*: Chabrier (Spanish No 10 under London; Honegger (Concerto de concertos for flute, cor anglais and strings; I Musici de Montreal directed by Yuli Teytelboym).  
**7.30** *News*.  
**7.55** *Morning Concert* (cont): Tchaikovsky (The Nutcracker, Op 71; Leningrad PO under Minkovsky); Borodin (Scherzo in G flat major; Scherzo in G flat major; Scherzo in G flat major).  
**8.30** *News*.  
**8.55** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
**9.00** *News*.  
**9.30** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
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**10.30** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
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**11.30** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
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**12.30** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
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**1.55** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
**2.00** *News*.  
**2.30** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
**2.55** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
**3.00** *News*.  
**3.30** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
**3.55** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
**4.00** *News*.  
**4.30** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
**4.55** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
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**5.30** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
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**6.30** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
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**7.00** *News*.  
**7.30** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
**7.55** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
**8.00** *News*.  
**8.30** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
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**9.30** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
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**10.30** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
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**12.00** *News*.  
**12.30** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
**12.55** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
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**1.30** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
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**2.00** *News*.  
**2.30** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
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**3.30** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
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**4.00** *News*.  
**4.30** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
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**5.55** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
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**6.30** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
**6.55** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
**7.00** *News*.  
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**1.55** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
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**3.30** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
**3.55** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
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**6.55** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
**7.00** *News*.  
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**3.00** *News*.  
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**4.55** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
**5.00** *News*.  
**5.30** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
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**6.55** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
**7.00** *News*.  
**7.30** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
**7.55** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
**8.00** *News*.  
**8.30** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
**8.55** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
**9.00** *News*.  
**9.30** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
**9.55** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
**10.00** *News*.  
**10.30** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
**10.55** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
**11.00** *News*.  
**11.30** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 929); Beethoven (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12); Liszt (Op 10 No 12).  
**11.55** *Composers of the Week*: Schubert. Trio in one movement in B flat (D 92



# Conservatives fear political consequences of egg crisis

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Mr John MacGregor, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, will today announce the Government's scheme for buying-in surplus eggs at a cost of more than £1 million a week, in an attempt to rescue Britain's 5,000 egg producers and their employees from the effects of the salmonella scare.

Last night ministers were still working on final details, which Mr MacGregor has promised to keep under wraps until MPs are told about them in the Commons this afternoon.

With 15 million eggs a day being added to a stockpile of 350 million in unsold stocks, the resignation of Mrs Edwina Currie, the junior health minister whose comments started the current crisis, has switched the spotlight on to Mr MacGregor's ministry.

Some senior ministers are concerned that the Government could look ridiculous if there is now a big outbreak of salmonella which is traced to eggs or chickens.

They are freely admitting that studies show that up to 60 per cent of chicken carcasses are contaminated with salmonella, which is harmless enough if they are cooked correctly, but, as one minister said, "Edwina may have exaggerated the problem but she did not invent it".

Tory MPs are now worried by the political implications of the affair. They fear that the Government will be seen as having knuckled under too readily to egg producers' lobby and that this will enable the opposition parties to present themselves as champions of the consumer. Some

Conservative MPs without farming interests are worried that the ministry has been insufficiently rigorous about sloppy feed practices and shown an indifference towards hygiene.

Mrs Currie is likely to get an early opportunity to air her views before the agriculture committee, which meets on Wednesday, and to justify, if she wishes, her statement that "most egg production" was contaminated with salmonella. Leading members said yesterday that they wanted to

**Inquiry plea** ..... 2

know why she said what she did and what briefings she had received from her department.

If she admitted that there were briefing documents, the committee would almost certainly use its powers to demand that the Department of Health produce them.

It has emerged that Mrs Currie did not volunteer her resignation but was forced into going after senior ministers and whips advised that the only way the growing crisis could be resolved was by sacrificing her.

The Government's £500,000 advertising campaign ostensibly to restore public confidence in eggs was described yesterday as "an absolute disaster" by Mr Dennis Warren, chairman of the United Kingdom Egg Producers' Association.

The full page advertisement included a warning that there was a risk, particularly to groups such as the elderly, small children and pregnant women, from eating raw or undercooked eggs.

## TV evidence speed up for child abuse cases

Continued from page 1  
abusers the punishments now available.

In response, Mr John Patten, Home Office Minister of State, is expected to announce a Home Office review of the recent changes in legal procedure and the range of penalties to see if additional deterrents are needed.

Ministers believe that over four years they have built up an almost complete package of penalties and procedures to deter the child abuser. The new Criminal Justice Act has increased the possible punishment for child neglect from two to 10 years.

Other serious attacks on children — murder, rape, grievous bodily harm, buggery — now carry a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. From February 1 the Attorney General will be able to refer

allegedly lenient sentences for child abusers to the Court of Appeal.

Recent legislation makes it possible for spouses of alleged abusers to be compelled to give evidence against them. Courts can now draw inferences from someone involved in a child abuse case refusing to give a blood or urine sample.

Children giving evidence no longer have to have it corroborated by an adult. The range of offences on which a child can give a written statement in committal proceedings has been extended.

Since September possession of an indecent photo of a child has been an offence, facilitating action against paedophile rings. Ministers are taking some satisfaction from improved clear-up rates for crimes against children.

# Armenian concert raises a million hopes



Mstislav Rostropovich: "This was a demonstration of humanity to the world."



James Galway, the flautist, and Andre Previn, the conductor, before the concert.

By Andrew Morgan

The head of the Armenian church in Britain yesterday praised the organizers of the Armenian concert on Saturday night. It has helped to raise well over £1 million and the final figure could be far more.

The well-known concert at the Barbican, in the presence of the Prince and Princess of Wales, was sponsored by The Times and organized by the British Association of Concert Agents. Proceeds will go to the British Red Cross Armenian Earthquake Appeal which has raised £1.5 million.

The concert, with musicians giving their services free, brought in £280,000 alone from ticket sales, donations from artists as well as television and broadcasting rights.

The concert was relayed live in Britain, Australia, The Netherlands and Ireland, where donations were yesterday flooding to the Red Cross. It will also be broadcast in America on Christmas Day with an appeal and later in the Soviet Union.

Bishop Yeghishhe Ghizirian, president of the Aid Armenian Committee, said that he be-

lieved more than 80,000 had perished but he added: "The concert was very inspiring and very impressive. We are grateful to those raising money which is having direct effect."

Bishop Ghizirian said that the Prince had expressed his deep concern and had made a personal contribution. "The presence of the royal couple was inspiring."

Many of the artists altered plans to play at the concert. Mstislav Rostropovich, the cellist, and his wife, Galina

**Review** ..... 16

Vishnevskaya, the soprano, postponed the start of a tour to India to play and Mr Yuri Bashmet, the violin player, flew in from Moscow.

The most poignant performance in an emotional evening was when Rostropovich played the finale from Britten's third cello suite, which uses Russian folk melodies based on the *Korunation*, the Russian prayer for the dead. Visibly moved, he had asked for no applause and left the stage to silent appreciation.

Madame Vishnevskaya said: "It was an incredible

feeling for us Russian people. It was very important for artists to perform this concert and it is important that Armenian people know what has been going on in London. It will please them that the royal couple were here."

Mr Rostropovich, who was born in Azerbaijan, added: "This was a demonstration of humanity to the world and it was wonderful seeing my dearest friends participate."

Andrei Gavrilov, the pianist whose mother is Armenian, played a Mozart *fantasia* and a Chopin *etude*. Afterwards, he said: "I don't have words in Russian or English to express my emotion."

"We must learn to live without a catastrophe having to bring us closer. That is why I am a musician."

Several celebrated musicians, including Alfred Brendel, Zubin Mehta and Sir Yehudi Menuhin, sent messages to the concert. Vladimir Ashkenazy said: "This disaster is of such proportions that words are irrelevant. My teacher was Armenian, a wonderful musician. I have many Armenian friends and it is even more with personal links."

## Kremlin moves towards abolition of the death penalty

Continued from page 1  
side, which is defined as murder with a racial motive.

Armenians had been lobbying for such a crime to be recognized since the killing of 28 Armenians during a pogrom in the Azerbaijani city of Sumgait last February.

They may be disappointed, however, that the new offence is to carry a maximum penalty of 15 years' jail and not the death penalty.

It may not be coincidental that Tass yesterday reported for the first

time the sentence passed a month ago on Akhmed Akhmedov, who was convicted of instigating the Sumgait killings.

The report from the official news agency made it clear that his sentence was death, and that it was not subject to appeal.

The tone of the draft guidelines for the new criminal code suggests the possibility of a generally less draconian approach to the enforcement of law and order than in the past. There are repeated references

to respect for mitigating circumstances, the desirability of finding alternatives to prison, and a specific statement that the purpose of punishment is not to occasion physical suffering or to degrade.

It will be pointed out, however, that earlier criminal codes also stated that the chief aim of punishment was re-education and reform — but that did not prevent the excesses of the Stalin years or the proliferation of the gulags.

One specific disappointment will

be the failure of the new draft to abolish political crime.

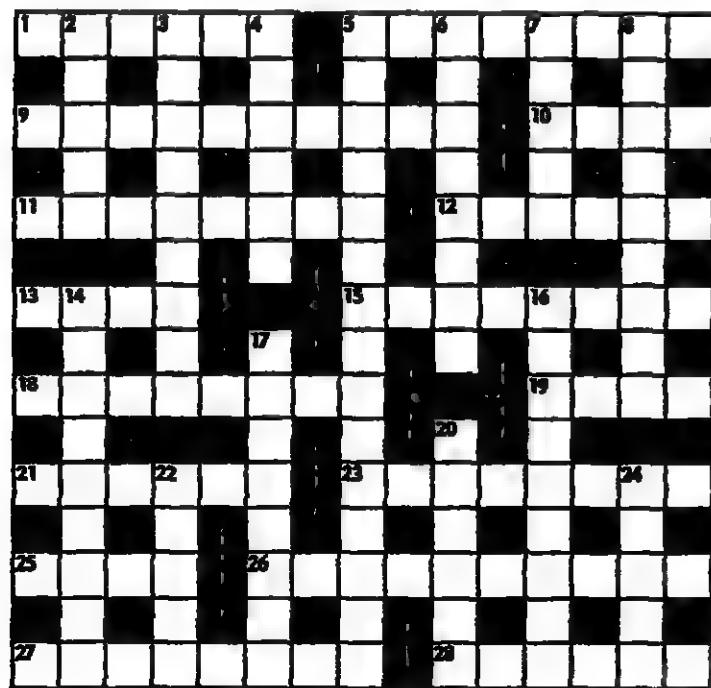
While there is no mention of Articles 70/72 and 190/191, the most frequently used against dissidents — suggesting that they may, as rumoured, be omitted from the new code — Article 2 in the introductory section of the draft says that the purpose of the country's criminal legislation is "to safeguard the social structure of the Soviet Union, its political and economic systems", as well as the rights and

freedoms of its citizens, and state and co-operative property.

This preliminary statement suggests that political and judicial considerations will continue to be closely entwined even after the new code is approved. A month has now been set aside for public comment and discussion before the proposals are finalized.

The draft provides the model on which the criminal codes for the 15 republics of the Soviet Union are based.

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,856



### ACROSS

- 1 Nowhere is perfect (6).
- 5 Money that is solely for material (8).
- 9 Scientist rents a room for working (10).
- 10 Elegant beasts (4).
- 11 Ending breathless (8).
- 12 Put detectives right on turning over Scandinavian (6).
- 13 Start work in French (4).
- 15 Confidential hint (8).
- 16 Forsaken by sweetheart, desire to see service (8).
- 19 Get set to fire a male (4).
- 21 Punish repeatedly to bring about some improvement (6).
- 23 Statesmanlike? (8).
- 25 Score a point, being smart (4).
- 26 A Trojan woman had no cream for cooking (10).
- 27 He leaves dry land with little hesitation (8).
- 28 He believes he is entering the race (6).

### DOWN

- 2 Trials a holy man set up (5).
- 3 Settle on woven cane maybe (9).
- 4 Attachment for a girl over the water (6).
- 5 In a ship one goes up and down (9-6).
- 6 Apolomb shown by 22 perhaps in accommodation fit only for pigs (8).
- 7 The person with gold will get the property (5).
- 8 Down-to-earth military men in charge holding a schedule (9).
- 14 Carry on quietly to rescue odd characters (9).
- 16 Contrive to get at inside of engine (9).
- 17 Promise made by witches to a worker (8).
- 20 A statement about drink (6).
- 22 She's in need of an entire new outfit (5).
- 24 All that remained of a vessel carrying high explosive (5).

Concise crossword, page 18

### WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

#### FOOT FAULTS

By Philip Howard

#### FOOT LAMBERT

a. The Protector's Army

b. A stable lad

c. A unit of light

#### FOOT POUND

a. A unit of energy

b. A froggish lull

c. Meddled jumping

#### FOOT STRIFE

a. A running race

b. A dialect for charcoal

c. Corns and blisters

#### FOOTSTALL

a. Side saddle stirrups

b. An aid to goat sufferers

c. A side-slip or swerve

Answers on page 18

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 17,855 will appear next Saturday

### WEATHER

Cloud and rain over much of England and Wales will edge south during the day, allowing brighter weather to spread from the north. Most of northern England, Northern Ireland and Scotland will be bright with sunny intervals and showers. Wind, strong, north-westerly. Outlook: similar.

### ABROAD

Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Algeria 12-14	S	10-15	Belgium 10-12	S	10-15
Austria 10-12	S	10-15	Denmark 10-12	S	10-15
Canada 10-12	S	10-15	France 10-12	S	10-15
China 10-12	S	10-15	Germany 10-12	S	10-15
India 10-12	S	10-15	Italy 10-12	S	10-15
Japan 10-12	S	10-15	Netherlands 10-12	S	10-15
USA 10-12	S	10-15	Sweden 10-12	S	10-15
Switzerland 10-12	S	10-15	Taiwan 10-12	S	10-15
Thailand 10-12	S	10-15	USSR 10-12	S	10-15
UK 10-12	S	10-15	Yugoslavia 10-12	S	10-15

### AROUND BRITAIN

Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London 10-12	S	10-15	Manchester 10-12	S	10-15
Birmingham 10-12	S	10-15	Cardiff 10-12	S	10-15
Edinburgh 10-12	S	10-15	Glasgow 10-12	S	10-15
Newcastle 10-12	S	10-15	Sheffield 10-12	S	10-15
Southampton 10-12	S	10-15	Wolverhampton 10-12	S	10-15
York 10-12	S	10-15			

### THE POUND

Unit	Rate	Unit	Rate
Australia \$	2.52	Spain Ptas	166.64
Canada \$	2.26	Switzerland Fr	2.00
Denmark Dkr	7.46	Taiwan N.T.	23.63
France F	6.55	USSR Rub	15.48
Germany DM	3.36	Yugoslavia D	13.63
Greece Dr	336		
Hong Kong \$	7.80		
India Rupee	47.54		
Italy Lira	2036		
Japan Yen	241		
Netherlands Gld	3.60		
Norway Kr	4.76		
Portugal Esc	200		
South Africa Rand	4.25		
Spain Ptas	166.64		
Sweden Kr	4.66		
Switzerland Fr	2.00		
Taiwan N.T.	23.63		
USA \$	1.53		
Yugoslavia D	13.63		

### HIGH TIDES

Location	Time	Height
London Bridge	10.10	10.4
Aberdeen	10.10	10.4
Amsterdam	10.10	10.4
Belfast	10.10	10.4
Cardiff	10.10	10.4
Dover	10.10	10.4
Glasgow	10.10	10.4
Harwich	10.10	10.4
London	10.10	10.4
Liverpool	10.10	10.4
Manchester	10.10	10.4
Newcastle	10.10	10.4
Sheffield	10.10	10.4
Southampton	10.10	10.4
Wolverhampton	10.10	10.4
York	10.10	10.4

### AM



### MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 8 pm, 11C (59F); min 6 pm to 8 am, 7C (45F). Rain: 24hr to 8 pm, 8 mm. Sun: 24hr to 8 pm, 0 mm.

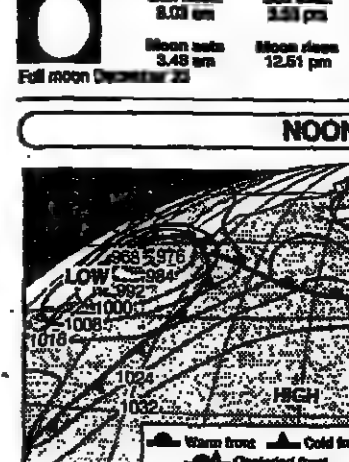
### HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: 11C (59F). Lowest night temp: 7C (45F). Rain: 24hr to 8 pm, 8 mm. Sun: 24hr to 8 pm, 0 mm.

### LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 4.32 pm to 7.34 am  
Edinburgh 4.20 pm to 7.23 am  
Manchester 4.20 pm to 7.23 am  
Penzance 4.21 pm to 7.48 am

### PM



### MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 8 pm, 11C (59F); min 6 pm to 8 am, 7C (45F). Rain: 24hr to 8 pm, 8 mm. Sun: 24hr to 8 pm, 0 mm.

### NOON TODAY

Information supplied by Met Office



CHANGE ON WEEK	
FT 30 Share	1436.0 (+6.6)
FT-SE 100	1773.7 (+23.0)
USM (Datastream)	146.16 (-3.11)
US dollar	1.8120 (-0.0385)
W German mark	3.1918 (-0.0133)
Trade-weighted	77.7 (-0.5)

# THE TIMES

MONDAY DECEMBER 19 1988

PART 2

BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-25  
LAW 24  
SPORT 27-32Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

## Textron to seek talks with Banner

By Martin Waller

Textron, the US conglomerate which emerged as the weekend counter-bidder for Avdel, the British industrial fasteners group, will this week be trying to persuade Banner Industries, another US company, to drop its hostile bid for Avdel and accept its offer.

Textron launched its bid last week through Schroders, the London merchant bank, initially anonymously. The offer stands or falls by the response of Banner, which already controls 43 per cent of Avdel.

The Banner offer, which was increased to 88p cash, closes on December 30. Textron, best known as the manufacturer of Bell helicopters and about 70th by size in US corporate rankings, is offering 4p more.

Mr Raymond Caine, a vice-president at Textron, was undisputed by Banner's immediate rejection of its bid. "We would be pleased to talk to Banner," he said.

Banner's profit on the deal, were it to walk away and sell its holding to Textron, is thought to approach £6 million before expenses.

Textron also makes a range of industrial and commercial products, including lawnmowers and golf cars, as well as owning Avco, the third largest consumer credit operation in the world.

## Bid values T-Line at £165m

By Our City Staff

Ladbroke Group has announced the terms of its bid for Thomson T-Line, the industrial conglomerate which owns the Vernons pools business, valuing the company at £165.1 million.

The 80p cash offer is accompanied by a loan note alternative, paying interest at 1 per cent below Libor, while preference shareholders are offered £1 a share.

The offer document, rushed out over the weekend after the bid last week, cheekily quotes from Thomson's own circular issued with its bid for Mr David Abell's Suter, which read: "Thomson's strategy is to concentrate resources in the distribution and assembly areas of industry with particular emphasis, like Suter, on niche businesses."

Ladbroke concludes: "It can be assumed therefore that the cash flow of Vernons was planned to be spent pursuing this industrial strategy, thereby placing another drain on Thomson's balance sheet."

It claims Ladbroke's offer, conditional on the Suter deal being voted down by Thomson shareholders at Wednesday's extraordinary meeting, fully values Vernons and Thomson's industrial and distribution businesses.

Ladbroke is urging its quarry to publish a profits forecast for the year to end April, broken down by division, and claims Thomson does not have the funds to fund its development.

Its main interest is in capturing Vernons, and the rest of the group will be sold if the offer is successful.

Tempos, page 22

## STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

● Stockwatch gives instant access to more than 10,000 share, unit trust and bond prices, including a special British Steel line on 0898 121269. The information you require is on the following numbers:  
● Stock market comment: general market 0898 121220; company news 0898 121221; active shares 0898 121225.  
● Compsort Holdings changes to Headland Group; Insh Wire Products becomes IWP International; Peachey Property, Quadrant nil paid and Goal Petroleum nil paid are deleted.  
● Calls charged at 5p for 8 seconds peak and 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

# Pillsbury talks as court rules for GrandMet

By Graham Searjeant and Bailey Morris

Grand Metropolitan was last night nearer victory than ever before in its \$5.5 billion (£3 billion) battle for America's Pillsbury group. But it may have to raise its bid from \$63 to \$66 a share to clinch the deal.

The Pillsbury board started an urgent meeting late yesterday in Minneapolis, following court rulings on Friday which threw out its main poison pill defences against GrandMet.

Mr Philip Smith, the chairman, and his colleagues had to decide whether to lodge an immediate appeal against the court ruling or to enter negotiations with GrandMet over an agreed price for the diverse food group.

An appeal, even if it failed, could delay a GrandMet takeover by two months, not counting the effect of other continuing spoiling moves by the Pillsbury board.

But the court case revealed that the two sides had been close to agreement over price only a week ago, when GrandMet's chairman Mr Allen Sheppard offered up to \$65 a share for an agreed deal.

while Mr Smith said he could not consider anything under \$67.

GrandMet unilaterally raised its offer from \$60 to \$63 after the talks broke down but has issued an open invitation for further talks.

The Pillsbury board is also under pressure from the threat of further lawsuits from disgruntled shareholders who have backed the GrandMet bid. If it appealed against the court judgment and lost, GrandMet could eventually win with a \$63 a share.

Poison pills... 22

bid although it had already offered \$65 conditional on Pillsbury approval.

GrandMet might well agree a compromise \$66 offer - equivalent to about 24 times Pillsbury's earnings - to gain agreement from the board for a swift end to the bid.

Friday's ruling in Delaware, unless upset on appeal, would allow GrandMet to complete the bid, which has won acceptance from holders of 87 per cent of Pillsbury's shares.

Judge William Duffy ruled against Pillsbury on two crucial counts. He enjoined the

US company from proceeding with its "poison pill defence". He also ruled that Pillsbury could not proceed with its planned spinoff of its ailing Burger King fast food chain, which was to be accompanied by the payment of a special dividend to shareholders. The spinoff was planned for early this week.

In turning aside Pillsbury's assertion that the GrandMet offer posed serious risks, Judge Duffy said that "the risk is not so serious that it should deprive the holders of the 87 per cent majority of their right to decide whether to accept or to reject the GrandMet offer."

After the ruling Mr Ian Martin, chairman of GrandMet's US operations, urged Pillsbury's management and board to work with the British company in orchestrating a smooth completion of the takeover.

Before yesterday's board meeting, some Pillsbury officials said that they would move to appeal against the ruling as quickly as possible.

GrandMet will today announce an agreed £20 million deal to buy the German-owned Wienerwald chain of 200 licensed restaurants.



Serving a range of natural foods: Malcolm Parkinson, former chief executive of Woolworth

## Parkinson develops taste for national organic food chain

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Mr Malcolm Parkinson, the former chief executive of the Woolworth high street store chain and a founder director of Woolworth's B&Q the market leader in do-it-yourself, is heading a plan to create the first national chain selling organically grown foods and other "natural" goods.

Mr Parkinson, who latterly has developed the Retail Corporation with its chain of garden centres, believes the already surging demand for organic foods is starting the sector on a new phase.

He said: "There is no longer the old cranky earnest-ama-teur image. The big supermarkets are selling all the organic produce they can get and at much better margins. "We shall bring retailing expertise to a sector which so far has not had it."

He is non-executive chairman of the Land and Food Company, created by Mr Paul Jackson, an organic farmer with retailing ambitions, who has also attracted Mr Roy

Doughty, to the venture as a non-executive director. Mr Doughty was until recently general manager of Duracell UK, the battery makers.

Mr Stuart Donaldson, a property company manager, has also joined the director team.

A national chain of outlets is planned, all to be farm shops and some to be run on a franchise basis.

Produce of local organic farms would be sold, with each outlet having specializations such as an on-site bakery or a butchery.

The aim will be the first chain of one-stop shops for a wide range of goods including wines.

The company is already involved in production with a 200-acre organic farm in Hertfordshire.

Negotiations have started to acquire other farms around the country.

The company's meats this Christmas include 24 turkeys organically raised at the com-

pany farm and organic champagne.

Although it takes at least two years for farms to free themselves of pesticides and other chemicals in the soil to switch to organic farming, Mr Parkinson says there is a big acreage that is already chemical free.

Mr Parkinson was attracted to the idea because he was looking for products "with integrity." He said: "My skills are in retailing and I have been examining various unexploited areas of the marketplace. This is one of them."

Mr Jackson said: "The basic problem with organic foods at present is technical inefficiency, a limited infrastructure, too many overheads and marketing is way below par. We have to get away from the farmshop image with a sack of spuds in the corner."

Funding so far has been under the Business Expansion Scheme and a new prospectus may be issued next year as the venture develops.

## Retailers expect to hit targets

By Our Economics Correspondent

Retailers have cast off much of their despondency over Christmas prospects after enjoying their best weekend of the year. With a full week's trading to go before Christmas Day, most appear to be confident of achieving targets.

This suggests that retail sales weakness in November, when the Department of Trade and Industry's official index fell 0.5 per cent on the month, was partly because shoppers delayed, rather than cancelled, shopping plans.

A spokesman for Marks and Spencer said sales this year were up to estimates, while stressing that the final week of trading before Christmas was crucial.

John Lewis Partnership reported detailed figures for the week ending December 10 showing that department store sales reached a record £34 million, 9.6 per cent up on last year. This was above estimates, after several weeks in which sales had just failed to hit targets.

Sales were strong in both northern and southern stores, with Southampton up 11.5 per cent on a year ago, Bristol up 10.7 per cent, Sheffield 10.2 per cent and Liverpool 10 per cent. However, smaller increases were recorded in the Partnership's London stores.

"It seems to have been pretty steady," a spokesman said.

At Boots, sales of traditional gift items such as cosmetics and perfumes, were said to be going very well. But even larger items of expenditure such as electronic keyboards, portable typewriters and small colour televisions were also selling well.

Non-food retailers expect to achieve a high proportion of their annual turnover in the run-up to Christmas, in some cases 50 per cent or more. The next few days will determine whether official hopes of a slowdown in spending, repeated by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, yesterday, are justified.

## Tyndall links with S Korea

Tyndall Holdings, the quoted fund management group, is to market its funds to government-approved investors in South Korea through an exclusive agreement with Lucky Securities, one of the largest securities houses in that country. The deal is believed to be the first between a Western financial services group and a Korean securities house.

## Lawson hope on growth

By Our Economics Correspondent

The Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, said yesterday that the sustainable rate of growth for the economy, without rising inflation and worsening balance of payments problems, had reached 3.5 per cent a year.

Growth was likely to exceed 4.5 per cent this year, he said. "But all the signs are that the economy is slowing down in just the way I'd hoped it would," he said in an interview on the BBC's Money Programme.

The debate over whether the economy has really embarked upon a new, permanently stronger, growth phase, has intensified during the autumn, as interest rates have been raised in response to rising inflation and a record current account deficit.

Critics have argued that, after the temporary boost to the balance of payments pro-

vided by North Sea oil, the economy has returned to the "stop-go" situation of the 1950s and 1960s.

The Chancellor said the economy was now capable of sustaining a growth rate higher than at any time in the past. But he also emphasised that the control of inflation would take priority over maintaining growth in the short term.

He rejected the option of allowing sterling to fall, even if exports weakened in the coming months. "It's absolutely essential as part of the battle against inflation..." he said. "It would be wholly inappropriate to allow the pound to take a dive. And we have, of course, record reserves which are not irrelevant."

The City will be watching closely for the November trade figures, due on Friday, amid fears of another £2 billion-plus current account

deficit. Dealers warned that currency movements were likely to be exaggerated in the wake of the figures by thin, holiday markets.

Mr Lawson said inflation was still on course to drop to 5 per cent by the end of next year, in spite of the upward revision last week, from 6.25 to 6.5 per cent, of the Treasury's estimate for the fourth quarter of this year.

The Chancellor refused, however, to set a target date for zero inflation. "It'll take a very long time to get there," he said, "but the important thing is to be moving in the right direction, that's the important thing with inflation. But also to improve the performance of the economy generally - reviving the enterprise culture so that people really can give of their best, so that living standards can rise steadily, and that's what we've seen."

## World Bank warns of new debt risks

Washington (Reuters) - The increase in Third World debt will slow to 3 per cent this year from 11 per cent in 1987, but low economic growth in many debtor nations means no end to the crisis is in sight, the World Bank said yesterday.

It put Third World debt at \$1,300 billion, and said failure to resolve the debt crisis could pose new risks for creditor banks in the industrial world.

While progress was made in Brazil, Mexico, Chile and Colombia, other nations, including sub-Saharan African states, were experiencing rising government deficits and inflationary pressures.

The bank said it might be necessary to rework the 1985 Baker plan, formulated by then US Treasury Secretary

	Debt	Private
Brazil	120.1	76.8%
Mexico	100.0	78.1%
Argentina	59.6	79.4%
Venez	35.0	99.3%
Nigeria	30.5	61.1%
Philipp	30.2	60.0%
Yugo	22.1	61.9%
Morocco	22.0	29.0%
Chile	20.8	74.3%
Peru	19.0	61.5%
Colombia	17.2	48.0%
Iv Coast	14.2	60.2%
Ecuador	11.0	63.6%

\* In billion dollars  
\* Last column refers to percentage owed to private sources

Mr James Baker, which proposed to ease the debt burden by a combination of new loans, write-offs and economic reform.

## Reed pays £25m for Shah group

By Our City Staff

Reed International took another step towards building up its publishing side, after selling off its packaging interests, north of Manchester, and along the coast. We're not very strong south of Manchester. It's a very neat part of the jigsaw."

Reed moved fast when Mr Shah offered it the papers less than two weeks ago. Last week, accountants and lawyers went in, and the deal was signed at the weekend.

Reed had been the under-bidder to Mr Shah when he bought the Warrington Guardian three years ago, said Mr Davis. Reed now has 140 local newspapers and has made 21 purchases since April 1.

up the record of not diluting earnings," Mr Davis added. "We jumped at them because they fit in well. We're strong north of Manchester and along the coast. We're not very strong south of Manchester. It's a very neat part of the jigsaw."

Reed moved fast when Mr Shah offered it the papers less than two weeks ago. Last week, accountants and lawyers went in, and the deal was signed at the weekend.

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## Chancellor to improve appeal of personal equity plans

## PEP changes in 'Budget for savings'

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Changes to improve the appeal of personal equity plans (PEPs), the ailing initiative by the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, to boost shareholding by the small investor, are now virtually certain in the Budget next March.

The Chancellor may even use the existing framework of PEPs as a means of offering tax relief on all savings up to a set limit, in what is widely expected to be a "Budget for savings."

Industry specialists have warned that the changes will need to be radical, if PEPs are to survive as a means of encouraging investment in UK equities.

The Chancellor gave a broad hint about improvements to PEPs, before last week's Epping Forest by-election. Treasury officials confirmed that this was the Chancellor's most forthright statement yet on the likelihood of PEP changes.

PEPs were launched in the March 1986 Budget, and the first plans went on sale in January 1987. The scheme, which

offered tax-free returns on investment in shares and unit trusts of up to £2,400 a year, was a success in its first year, with more than 250,000 plans sold.

This year sales have slumped, however, under the impact of the October 1987 equity market crash, the complexity of the PEP rules, and a growing realization that the tax savings under the scheme were less attractive than they first appeared.

Some plan managers are experiencing last-minute demand in the run-up to the end of the year, but the total plans sold may be only 60,000 to 70,000, a quarter of last year's level. This is despite an increase to £3,000, announced in the Budget last March, in the amount of annual investment allowed under the plan.

The Treasury has been receiving advice on improving PEPs from the industry throughout the autumn. The most popular idea is that tax relief should be available as money is put into the plan.

"The optimum at the end of the day is to get some tax relief up front," said Mr John Glanville, business development

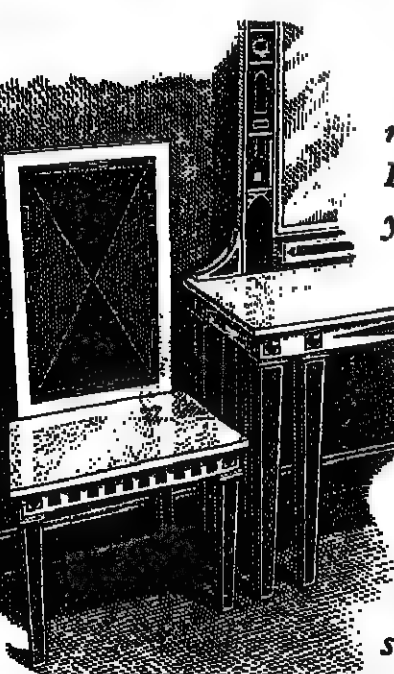
manager at Lloyds Bank's PEP arm. "It's got to be something more than tinkering this time round."

Lloyds is the market-leader in PEPs, probably accounting for 40 per cent of the plans sold this year. It intends to persist with PEPs, even under the current framework.

But Barclays has deferred its decision of whether to offer a 1989 plan until after the Budget. Mr Gavin Oldham, the chief executive of Barclaysshare, said: "Our preference is for bringing the tax encouragement into a normal investment portfolio by, for example, allowing people to receive up to £500 a year in dividends tax free."

Under this type of change, the original idea of PEPs, as neat, compartmentalized tranches of equity and unit trust saving would be changed into a more general scheme of offering tax relief on the returns from equity investment. In combination with the existing exemption limits from capital gains tax, it could mean that most small investors would avoid paying tax on equity investment.

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## TEMPUS

# Last chance for T-Line to hit the Vernons jackpot

The stock market is flashing some clear warnings to shareholders in both Thomson T-Line and Suter since Mr Cyril Stein's Ladbroke Group stepped into the agreed merger between the two.

At Friday's closing price of 91p for T-Line, the complicated package of cash, shares and convertible preference stock on offer valued Suter, the engineering group headed by Mr David Abell, at more than 300p a share. Yet Suter shares closed at 196p. That kind of gap looks like a possible pitfall rather than an opportunity to make money. Suter's price is saying that the T-Line deal is dead.

T-Line's price on the other hand is much more hopeful. With 11p of daylight between it and Ladbroke's cash offer, a counter-bid is clearly being taken seriously.

The signals from the market are timely, too. For T-Line holders have a decision to make on Wednesday, while investors in Suter may want to make an early exit before the rush.

Though it was to be an arranged marriage, the market never warmed to the idea of a Suter/T-Line link. Long before Ladbroke's intervention it was clear that all was not going well with the planned union.

Thomson T-Line, a miscellaneous collection of businesses including the Vernons pools interests, suffered a steady fall in its share price almost from the moment the banns were called. From comfortably above the £1 mark when the Vernons deal was announced in February, the shares slipped to just over half that when Ladbroke pounced.

Doubts began to emerge over the ability of T-Line's new management team, Mr Hugo Biermann and Mr Julian Askin, to reduce the heavy debt burden involved in the merger and use their paper for expansion. That approach is tougher in these days of high interest rates and flat equity markets.

Against this background, T-



David Abell: gap between offer valuation and share price that looks like a possible pitfall.

Line shareholders must decide on Wednesday to approve the purchase of Suter or to give it a decent burial. If they were inclined to soldier on, Ladbroke would walk away. T-Line shares would surely relapse. A thumbs down to Suter, however, leaves the prospect of a developing battle for T-Line's jewel, Vernons.

Suter's price is largely discounting rejection by T-Line, but not entirely. At 196p it is not obviously cheap without a bid, standing on a 1988 p/e multiple of almost 9 times. There are far more attractive stocks on ratings a good deal lower.

## M&G Group

Even M&G Group's critics would be hard pressed to knock its 1988 results after 12 months in the stock market which virtually every fund manager would want to forget. Pre-tax profits of £23 mil-

lion for the year ended September, against the record £23.3 million of a year earlier was no mean achievement.

Even though the general investment community was expected to have shunned the market after October 1987, second-best ever unit sales of £385 million were achieved, and against the trend management fees on invested funds rose by 9.6 per cent.

Though stock market activity remains the overall key to where M&G goes, some respectable progress even if markets remain dull, looks certain. However, it will be a very competitive year due to formidable new competition.

In the period ended September, all M&G's unit trusts performed better than the FT All-Share Index (which fell by 21.7 per cent), which should prove an alluring sales point.

The life assurance arm contributed £4 million against £3.15 million, despite the

strain of new business costs. While another advance is expected this year, there is a cloud on the horizon. The Chancellor has indicated that he considers the life assurance industry pays too little tax.

The question of whether M&G can resume its rate of profits progress can better be addressed when the interim report is to hand. But one early suggestion for the 1989 financial year as a whole is that pre-tax profits could well reach the £25.5 million mark.

At 268p on a prospective rating of 12 and backed by a 4.2 per cent yield, M&G shares are a solid hold in generally uncertain markets.

## Bejam

For Malcolm Walker, the chairman of Iceland Frozen Foods, the bid for Bejam has been an uphill struggle. To gain control, he will need to win the backing of more than

80 per cent of the institutional shareholders — which own about half the Bejam shares — and possibly 50 per cent of the private investors.

The main obstacle is John Aphorpe, chairman and founder of Bejam, who speaks for 30 per cent of the company. He has already decided not to sell.

Wednesday brings another closing date, when the cash alternative offer will expire. But Mr Walker may still be in with a chance. On Friday, Bejam's share price soared from 153p to 165p amid rumours that Iceland has won over at least two major institutions.

Bejam shareholders may be justified in grinding their teeth at the offer, because they had hoped that all those years of loyalty would be amply rewarded at some stage.

As it is, Iceland's offer is the only one on the table and best taken in the circumstances. Bejam is not the kind of stock for which bidders are queuing at present.

In the past Bejam's share price held up mainly on bid prospects. This year it saw earnings per share grow by only 6 per cent, and it has long suffered from a reputation of being an outmoded retailer. If Iceland loses, it is estimated Bejam shares are likely to fall from 165p to 140p and possibly lower.

Iceland's share price, currently at 313p, is also expected to fall as a result of the new shares to be issued, so that the partial cash alternative appears the better offer. This represents a value of at least 177p for each Bejam share.

The irony is that even if Iceland loses, it could still emerge as a threat for Bejam. There is little geographical overlap between "Northern" Iceland and "Southern" Bejam, but Mr Walker has already indicated that he would confront Bejam on its home ground. And experts estimate that the added element of competition will do little for Bejam's already disappointing earnings and share price performance.

## GILT-EDGED

# Fears of overkill while waiting for the bull run

During the course of 1988 monetary policy has turned full circle. Early in the year, expectations of a sharp slowdown in growth following the autumn crash in 1987 together with an attempt to cap sterling's rise led to successive cuts in rates to 7.5 per cent.

Evidence of continuing strong growth has led to these being more than reversed. Both these movements, we suggest, have been excessive, have not taken account of the lags in the system and have exacerbated the underlying economic cycle. Government policy has once again reinforced rather than countered the cycle.

The spreading of growth and house price inflation to regions outside the South-east are both evidence of maturity in the economic cycle. They are also consistent in timing with the warnings of a slowdown given by the crash. Growth, in other words, was likely to have slowed naturally in 1989, if this year's interest rate gyrations had been avoided. There is now a serious prospect of overkill. If higher rates are maintained, the continuous growth since 1981 will be in danger.

The full impact of higher interest rates is still to be felt by the household sector. After the recent rise, interest payments as a proportion of disposable income will be 30 per cent higher in early 1989 than during most of this year and far higher than 1985 when rates were last at these levels.

Compared with 1980, when base rates went to 17 per cent, the burden of interest payments will have roughly doubled. While there has been a long-term upward trend in the debt-income ratio, the cost of servicing that debt was little changed between 1985 and 1988, a period of strong growth in consumer spending. The large increase in household borrowing was offset by a declining trend in interest rates.

The dramatic increase in the responsiveness of consumers to changes in interest rates will not be picked up by economic

models based on long run trends and so far has had little impact on policy.

Interest rates have risen from 7.5 per cent to 13 per cent before any real economy variable could have realistically been expected to respond. Due to lags in the system, recent strong growth is probably related to cuts in rates earlier in the year.

As a result, the current tightening of monetary policy may be closer in severity to that of 1980/81 than that of 1985. In 1980/81, tight monetary policy in conjunction with tight fiscal policy produced a hard landing. In 1985 the landing was much softer and interest rates were allowed to come down quickly. Oil price falls also allowed the Chancellor to engineer a devaluation in sterling in 1986 without serious consequences for inflation.

The real economy shows little sign of responding to higher interest rates so far but the evidence from the housing market and the money supply is growing. The effect of the tightening on the housing market has received much media attention and rightly so as it is a central and very useful leading indicator.

The recessions of 1973/74 and 1980/81 were both preceded by sharp falls in real house prices (of more than 10 per cent year on year).

By contrast, the softer landing in 1985 involved no real fall in house prices. If we really are at the end of the long growth upswing, then one would expect a fall in both real house prices and in housing market turnover. We have already seen the sharp drop in turnover. Falls in real house prices will depend on whether unemployment starts to pick up.

After the distortions created by the postal dispute, M0 growth appears to be slowing sharply. Furthermore, a slowdown in loan demand should bring a marked deceleration in broad money growth. The personal sector has responded extremely rapidly to higher interest rates, probably reflecting its high gearing.

The downturn in the early 1980s resulted in stagflation — the unpalatable combination of high inflation and high unemployment. While there may be distinct risks on unemployment this time around, there is room for optimism on the inflation profile. Core inflation may rise to between 5.5 per cent and 6 per cent by mid-1989 but thereafter it will be firmly on Mr Lawson's downward track. By the first quarter of 1990 headline inflation should be below 4 per cent.

Even though we share the markets' concern about forthcoming pay negotiations, fears about unit labour costs may be exaggerated. Productivity growth may be better than many think as new capacity comes on stream and if employers choose to shed labour in an effort to control costs. In addition, a strong exchange rate will hold down import prices and encourage employers to hold down wage settlements. Unlike 1972-73 and 1979-80 we do not anticipate a commodity price explosion. Finally, the indirect impact of slower house price inflation in holding down the housing component of the RPI apart from mortgage rates has been little mentioned.

There is little doubt in our minds that on domestic grounds, gilts are building up steam for a strong bull run.

The risks, which relate purely to timing, are twofold. The first lies largely overseas. While Britain was the first to tighten aggressively, further interest rate rises overseas are quite likely. The second is that the authorities may be prevented from adopting an easier monetary stance on domestic grounds by weakness in sterling as a result of the current account deficit.

In either of these cases the subsequent bull run when it comes would be that much stronger.

David Wileman and Dick Howard  
ANZ Securities  
(Agency Broking)

# Mergers control will be a severe test for Brittan

From Michael Dynes, Brussels

One of the most taxing tasks facing Mr Leon Brittan when he takes over as Europe's commissioner for competition policy in the new year will be to resolve the deep-rooted antagonism between the European Commission and the United Kingdom over Brussels' demand for increased powers to regulate cross frontier mergers.

In what could prove a severe test of Mr Brittan's skills as a tightrope walker, the commissioner will be required to present a vigorous case on behalf of the Commission for the new powers, without rendering himself liable to the charge of "going native".

Mr Brittan inherits this unenviable task from his predecessor, Mr Peter Sutherland, who is responsible for elevating the job from the obscure backwoods of European politics to the top of the Community's agenda.

Under the Treaty of Rome, the Commission already wields an impressive range of powers designed to regulate competition within the Community based on Article 85, which prohibits all conspiracies to fix prices, limit production and divide up the market, and Article 86 which prohibits abuse of dominant positions.

But while the former can be exercised before the event, as in the attempt by the G&C Brands consortium to take over Irish Distillers earlier this year, the latter can only be exercised after a merger or acquisition has taken place (unless it creates a dominant position likely to be abused).

In an attempt to resolve this shortcoming, Mr Sutherland revived the 1973 draft directive for a comprehensive merger control policy. He insisted that increased powers over mergers were vital.

In its present form the directive calls on member states to grant the Commission powers to vet in advance all mergers where the combined turnover involved exceeds £690 million, except

where the company being taken over has an annual turnover of less than £33 million or where 75 per cent or more of the merged companies were in a single member state.

Eleven member states have now given their approval to the need, in principle only, for a comprehensive merger control regulation. But Britain continues to insist that, in the words of Mr Francis Maude, the Under Secretary of State for Trade: "We are not prepared to say yes to the principle before we know the final form of the proposal."

The United Kingdom clearly faces a dilemma over merger policy. The Government does not want to be accused of allowing Brussels to encroach even further into the realm of national sovereignty, but the British business community is already leaning towards an endorsement of the "one stop shop".

But Mr Brittan is confident he will be able to resolve this tantalizing dilemma. After receiving confirmation that competition policy had been given to the United Kingdom, he expressed his conviction that "if a form of words is agreed that is generally acceptable, the British Government will be able to agree to the regulation."

Whether a "form of words" will be enough to limit the political consequences of a further loss of sovereignty remains to be seen. Many observers in Brussels are optimistic that Mr Brittan will not turn out to be Mrs Thatcher's "yes man" in Europe. Dismissing the notion of "going native" as "first class rubbish", Mr Brittan insisted that "what is important are policies that will be good for Europe and good for Britain."

This is all good sound stuff. But in the event of a conflict of interests between Britain and its European partners, Mr Brittan may yet find himself having to decide between the two.

The controversial poison pills — rights plans which allow shareholders to be treated differently in takeover situations — have played a central role in such takeover battles as Grand Metropolitan's bid for Pillsbury.

Pillsbury's poison pill defence — successfully challenged in court by GrandMet — prevented the British company from completing the take-



Plans to sell four chateau-produced wines at £90 million. George Walker, chairman

go before shareholders at an extraordinary meeting on December 28.

Mr Walker claims the speculation is part of a long-running "knocking" campaign directed at his group.

"It's always done at a sensitive time. This is a confidence-knocker in Brent Walker, at a time when I'm putting together one of the biggest deals in my life."

"There is no action by the Gaming Board against Brent Walker."

The report suggested nine of

the group's casinos could be for sale for at least £125 million.

Mr Walker said he had received various approaches, for substantially less than this figure, from four different parties, including Skakis, the private Liverpool-based Hamilton group and the recently-enlarged Mecca Leisure Group.

"They have all offered me money, and I've turned them all down. I'm not selling my casinos."

He would not be prepared

to accept £125 million for them, the amount he originally paid for the chain from Lomro in June 1987, although he conceded a "reasonable" offer for substantially more than this would have to be put to the Brent Walker board.

An offer for just one of the casinos, the International Sporting Centre in Park Lane, central London, for £70 million, has already been rejected.

One report suggested that the Gaming Board had been in contact with three senior executives within Brent Walker's casinos division in recent weeks.

One was named as Mr Leo Fackler, the division's managing director.

The suggestion was hotly denied by Mr Walker, who claimed it was designed to "create feelings of mistrust and tension in the City."

Mr Fackler had only been in this country for four days over the last month, he added.

Mr Walker denied there was any official Gaming Board inquiry, but said the Gaming Board as part of its normal business did occasionally talk to individual employees of all the companies involved in gambling.

He admitted that one employee of the casinos division might have been called before the Gaming Board in recent weeks for a minor breach of the rules, but said this was "normal procedure" in the industry.

"There are 2,000 employees in the casinos division."

"We can't be responsible for every one."

The two drinks deals will leave Brent Walker with £900 million of debts and a desperate need to reduce these. Also currently on offer, at an asking price of £35 million, is its 29 per cent stake in Local London Group, a property developer quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, after takeover talks foundered.

Fears that a recession in 1989 will cause a wave of bankruptcies among heavily-indebted companies has prompted Congress to study reforms. But the states, urged by powerful US business interests, may move even faster to erect barriers to hostile takeovers.

In an attempt to balance the effects

## Stop-gap measures against takeovers being set up ahead of federal action

# US states ready to swallow poison pills

From Bailey Morris, Washington

A growing number of US state legislatures are considering adopting "poison pill" tactics to prevent foreign and domestic companies from executing hostile takeovers of local firms which are largely unprotected under federal law.

State governments, urged by the powerful Business Council, are designing their own programmes to arm US corporations with defences against unwanted takeovers while they await action at federal level in Congress.

Only five states have actually passed laws supporting the programmes but up to another 15 are considering similar legislation or alternative measures, according to the findings of the US House Ways and Means Committee.

The controversial poison pills — rights plans which allow shareholders to be treated differently in takeover situations — have played a central role in such takeover battles as Grand Metropolitan's bid for Pillsbury.

over, even after it had been traded more than 88 per cent of the outstanding shares.

"The pill is doing what it was designed to do," said Mr Stephen Rothschild, a Pillsbury lawyer who urged the court to uphold the legality of the programme.

It is unclear, however, what GrandMet's successful challenge will do to the plans of state governments. The New York State legislature apparently agreed with the arguments of Mr Rothschild and leading US business officials that the many and varied poison pill programmes were the best defence against unwanted takeovers.

It passed legislation that would allow New York-chartered corporations to issue shareholders rights plans, but the move was only a stop-gap measure, giving the state more time to study the effects of the pills, which are opposed by the US investment industry, whose officials say the device is used to protect the interests of entrenched, outdated management not, as supporters argue, to protect the company and its shareholders.

A popular provision is one that

allows shareholders to buy more shares at a steep discount as the takeover deadline nears. This increases the number of shares outstanding and results in a prohibitive cost which usually prevents the takeover.

At one point in the GrandMet-Pillsbury battle, Mr Steven Gold, a GrandMet lawyer, estimated that the poison pill could add as much as \$1 billion (£551 million) to the total cost if it was not stopped.

In many cases, the defence programmes are carefully structured to result in big rewards for top management which own a large percentage of shares.

But supporters noted that poison pills are actually bargaining weapons which are only to be executed as a last resort. They are designed to buy time for the takeover target and increase the price to shareholders.

The stopgap New York measure will be studied closely by other state governments which have expressed strong concern over legislation that would restrict takeovers which could be helpful to the US economy.

of the legislation, state officials said they wrote a bill that would take into account the rights of shareholders and the long-term health of companies.

The bill requires, among other things, that company boards consider the "prospects for potential growth, development, productivity, and profitability of the corporation" when reviewing takeover offers.

New York's legislation was prompted largely by a bitter, costly domestic struggle between Irving Bank and the Bank of New York. But other states have been troubled by the record wave of foreign takeovers of US companies in recent years. Congress has also become alarmed by the takeover boom and the debt assumed by US companies. It has promised to launch an investigation after January's inauguration of President-elect Mr George Bush.

Fears that a recession in 1989 will cause a wave of bankruptcies among heavily-indebted companies has prompted Congress to study reforms. But the states, urged by powerful US business interests, may move even faster to erect barriers to hostile takeovers.

# Sales of dairy desserts 'to soar'

By Derek Harris  
Industrial Editor

Dairy desserts, a fast-growing sector dominated by yoghurt, is likely to double the £280 million worth of products sold last year by 1993, according to a new survey of the overall dairy market.

It is the first time a report on the desserts sector has been made by Dairy Crest, the Milk Marketing Board subsidiary, in its annual review.

Desserts are now so popular that almost as much money is being spent on them as on butter and rather more than on margarine. Yoghurt sells four times better than any other dessert product. The cheese sector is more substantial, having risen to £821 million in value in the 12 months to last June.

Volume cheese sales have remained stable over 12 months while those of all yellow fats, including butters and margarines, marginally declined by 0.5 per cent. Yellow fat volume sales are expected to drop another 1 per cent in 1989.

Consumers are increasingly turning from high cholesterol butter and margarine to low fat spreads and polyunsaturated margarine. Polyunsaturated margarine's volume share rose 7 per cent in the last 12 months to nearly 23 per cent of the yellow fats market. Low fat and dairy spreads stand at 17 per cent market share. Butter's volume share slid 10 per cent but still accounts for 41 per cent of the yellow fats market.

The cheese sector is forecasting price rises of between 8 and 10 per cent next year as the effects of the EEC milk quota reductions continue to bite.

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# City seeks some Spanish sun to brighten outlook at Acatos

TODAY

Acatos & Hutchison, the cooking oil producer, shed a tenth of its value in two days in May when it reported only a 10 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £6.89 million, against a forecast increase of at least 20 per cent.

Dealers are, therefore, cautious about today's annual results which are not expected to be good. Analysts' pre-tax profit forecasts range between £11 million and £12 million compared with £12.2 million last year.

Adverse currency factors have hit margins in edible oils, while the situation has not been helped by the increase in British refining capacity.

However, dealers will be hoping to draw some comfort from the bullish statement, which is expected to accompany the figures, concerning Acatos's push into Europe, particularly Spain.

Last month, the group revealed that it is establishing a joint venture in Spain, with Elosua, one of Spain's largest food groups, to develop a range of edible oils and fats. Interims: Acatos & Hutchison, Bimex Industries, Broadwell Land, Electric & General Investment Co, Explara Holdings, Fitch Lovell, F&C Smaller Companies (expected on December 20), GF Lovell, Randfontein Estates Gold Mining Co, Witwatersrand, Tamaris, Tops Estates, TR



Robertson: group likely to return to profit



Montague: bullish statement is expected

Trustees Corporation, Victoria Carpet Holdings, Watergate International Holdings. Finalists: Craon Lodge & Knight Group (amended).

TOMORROW

Shares of Borthwicks, the food manufacturer and trader chaired by Mr Lewis Robertson, were favoured of the month in October when Polly Peck International, the agriculture-to-textiles group headed by Mr Asil Nadir, acquired a near 5 per cent stake. The City braced itself for a full-scale takeover — but has been waiting ever since.

The shares have drifted down from about 70p to 45p on the lack of developments

1923  
REPORTING  
THIS WEEK

and so shareholders are, no doubt, hoping for a good set of annual results to help promote a recovery. Kitecat & Aiken, the broker, has pencilled in pre-tax profits of £800,000 compared with last year's loss of £2.1 million.

rental business has had a good first half.

He said: "Tiphook paid a big multiple for Remco, but the merger looks to have gone smoothly."

Interims: Braithwaite Group, Philip Harris Holdings, Sutcliffe Speakman, Tiphook. Finalists: Borthwicks, Claremont (UK), Toshiba.

WEDNESDAY

Arden, the electrical and electronic manufacturing group, which is a former glamour stock, is expected to report interim pre-tax profits little changed on last year's total of £754,000.

Shareholders will be hoping to hear that profits at its Columbia subsidiaries, the manufacturers and designers of heat dissipaters, have improved in the first six months of the year. They dropped 22 per cent to £360,000 last year after the loss of a Swedish subcontract job worth £250,000 in turnover.

Interims: Arden, Batleys, Northumbrian Fine Foods. Finalists: Bankers' Investment Trust, Electronic Data Processing, Isle of Man Enterprises.

THURSDAY

Interims: Firstland Oil & Gas. Finalists: Kelsey Industries.

FRIDAY

Interims: None announced. Finalists: None announced.

Geoffrey Foster

## Bookseller to defy publishers' price rule

By Rosemary Unsworth  
Retail Affairs  
Correspondent

A West Country bookseller this week plans to sell books with as much as a 20 per cent price reduction after a decision last week by the European Commission that publishers should stop fixing minimum prices for books exported from Britain.

The Commission said the Net Book Agreement, which ensures that books are sold at the publishers' price in Britain and Ireland, was incompatible with EEC rules because it restricted competition between member states. The ruling could mean cheaper books in Ireland but, since books can be bought there and imported back, prices could fall in Britain, too.

Mr Peter Fraser, who owns two classic bookshops in Bristol and Bath, will cut prices of selected biographies and hardcover fiction, including *Oscar and Lucinda* by Peter Carey, the Booker Prize winner, and the first volume of the biography of George Bernard Shaw by Michael Holroyd.

Mr Fraser said: "The Net Book Agreement offers no real advantage to the public interest and tends only to insulate the industry from market forces and public opinion. Far from damaging the book trade, a release from these restrictions would bring new vigour to the industry."

He expected publishers would try to win injunctions to prevent him from selling at less than their stipulated price.

## Skill shortages pose threat to information technology

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

A shortage of skilled manpower is threatening information technology. Britain's fastest growing industry now worth £9 billion a year.

The warning comes in a new Confederation of British Industry report which shows the IT industry is expanding so fast that it cannot train people quickly enough.

It includes estimates for average increases in demand for IT professional staff of 7 per cent a year for at least the next five years. Demand will continue to exceed supply, the report claims.

Mr Brian Oakley, the chairman of Logica Research who led the report team, said: "This could leave Britain dangerously exposed, compared with its international trading rivals."

The shortages are worsening



Oakley: exposure warning

despite the team's discovery that in manufacturing industry a "high proportion" of companies are still not using IT to improve such activities as design, purchasing and quality and stock control.

About 8,000 people are involved in the network

communications industry and in the past two years, worker numbers have grown 35 per cent and then 16 per cent. The report believes this points to an "escalating demand."

Recommendations are put forward to improve the flow of trained personnel, including:

- Companies improving manpower planning, co-operating with educational bodies and encouraging more recruits.
- Universities and polytechnics accepting more entrants whose mathematics are not strong and giving remedial maths teaching.
- Government funding for training and promotion.

"Changes in IT Skills — the impact of technology from the CBI, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, London, WC1A 1DU.

## Berry denies difficulties with County

Mr Tony Berry, the Blue Arrow chairman, has denied reports of difficulties with his biggest shareholder, County NatWest with 9.4 per cent, following the abrupt departure of Mr Mitchell Fromstein, the former president of its Manpower subsidiary.

There have been suggestions that County has demanded a report on the group's current performance. But a spokesman for Mr Berry said he had explained the situation to Mr Terry Green, a County director.

County picked up its stake at 166p a share at the time of Blue Arrow's £837 million rights issue.

## Reagan to top deficit target

Washington (Reuters) — President Reagan, blaming Congress for spending more than the government earns, said he would submit a budget next month that would cut the deficit by more than the \$35 billion (£19.3 billion) mandated by law.

"The only way to reduce the deficit is by limiting the increase in spending and that's what my last budget will do," he said, adding that after leaving office on January 20, he would campaign to change "a budget system that lacked internal discipline and has gone out of control."

Mr Reagan said his budget,

due to be sent to Congress on January 9, would more than meet targets set by the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings law which calls for progressive deficit cuts, leading to a balanced federal budget in the 1993 fiscal year.

Under the law, the deficit must be cut to about \$110 billion in the 1990 fiscal year, which begins next October, from about \$145 billion in fiscal 1989, or an automatic cut of \$35 billion, divided evenly between defence and domestic programmes, will take place in mid-October 1989.

Mr Reagan said his budget,

projected \$80 billion in increased revenues without any new taxes.

Mr Reagan said: "The budget system simply has no control and no internal discipline."

He said the president should be given authority to refuse to spend congressionally appropriated funds when he deemed them unnecessary.

"We need a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution so the federal government does not spend more than it takes in," he said. "After I leave office next month, I will campaign for these reforms."

## MG men flock to County

The battle between County NatWest, BZW and Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers, to attract the best of those market-makers laid off by Morgan Grenfell has been won hands down by County. Seven of the most respected and senior ex-Morgan staff accepted job offers at the weekend from County, including the erstwhile head of market-making, Steve Davies. Davies, a former partner with Pinchin Denny, the jobbing firm bought by Morgan, will be working alongside County's existing market-making boss, Colin Mills. "Colin and Steve used to work together at Pinchin and were very keen to do so again," says Chris Cartwright, managing director responsible for trading risk at County. "We regard these appointments as big news. It means we can strengthen our market-making team which is something we have wanted to do for some time. And we are delighted that they have chosen to work for us — it shows that they believe that we are committed to the market."

Also joining are Jeremy Lyon, David Butler, who ran the engineering pitch, Mike Rogers, Steve Morgan, David Kininmonth and Simon Moorhouse. One or two others might yet follow suit. But despite these recruits, County's team of 100 or so market-makers is slightly smaller than a year ago. "We have been continually upgrading our personnel and this is part of that process," says Cartwright.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### New cue for a queue

Is BMW convinced that the demise of the City yuppie is nigh? Clearly seeking a new market for its status symbol cars, BMW's West German headquarters has just revealed that it is about to open its first sales and service centre in Moscow. The company said its existing customers there num-

bered a few hundred, mostly foreign diplomats, journalists and representatives of Western firms, but it expects its client base to increase substantially over the next few years. "In the long term there is noteworthy potential in the Soviet Union for higher-priced cars," a spokesman said.

### Doubling up

Our beleaguered Chancellor may be hoping that Mrs Thatcher has not been reading the international news with her usual thoroughness. Following the resignation of Japan's finance minister, Kiuchi Miyazawa, Noboru Takeshita, the prime minister is, I hear, temporarily adding

the job to his existing responsibilities. A good way to avoid any more rows between Numbers 10 and 11 Downing Street, perhaps?

### Sail order

After we reported earlier this month that the Army was trying to attract some of the City's fallout, I see that the senior service has decided to follow suit. It has just placed a newspaper advertisement which portrays an extremely substantial-looking warship beneath which is the headline: "Trade in your Porsche for something a little bigger."

### Chase away

Popular gilt trader Paul Lucas has, I hear, resigned from Chase Manhattan Securities. While confirming that Lucas has indeed departed — of his own free will — Chase never-theless refuses to disclose where he has gone. "We never discuss our personnel," a spokesman tells me. No wonder Lucas left.



"If they delay the trial much longer I hope to plead loss of memory"

## ECONOMIC VIEW

# Spotlight on Lawson's fiscal balancing act

Fiscal policy, according to Nigel Lawson, should be designed primarily with an eye to the longer term structure and efficiency of the economy. The fiscal balance has to be consistent with the medium term financial strategy, which if the economy is overheating may mean planning for a large budget surplus. But changes in taxation should be aimed mainly at unleashing people's natural energies and ensuring fairness between one taxpayer and another.

Fiscal success or failure on these terms is more difficult to assess but more important in the longer term than the short term effect on demand. As the Treasury and the Revenue departments struggle to prepare their preliminary budget briefing for ministers it is worth glancing back at the last Budget to see how far it may be starting to yield the supply side benefits which inspired its component parts.

Of the smaller and more narrowly targeted measures, the star of the show is the extension of the Business Expansion Scheme to cover property for rent under the assured tenancy scheme. About £100 million has been raised compared with the Government's original estimate of £125 million for the financial year as a whole.

According to the Financial Secretary Norman Lamont, "these assured tenancy companies are the type of small-to-medium company engaged in a risky activity which Sir Geoffrey Howe had in mind with the start of the BES in 1983." Practitioners in the area are more inclined to ascribe their popularity to the fact that they are asset-backed and therefore less risky than the normal run of BES. However, there is no doubt that as a way of stimulating investment in accommodation for rent the tax relief has been a considerable success.

Though running counter to the general preference for tax neutrality between different types of investment, this should generate economic benefits of its own by making it easier for people to move between different areas of the country.

The effect of removing tax relief on home improvement loans is more difficult to assess. The period of three weeks' grace after the Budget before the new rules came into effect produced a surge of borrowing. But since then building societies have continued to lend more on home improvements than before. In October, lending other than for house

purchase was almost double the £664 million level of a year earlier.

This may reflect the buoyancy of consumer confidence and the fact that as more people have been buying houses, more have been doing them up. Given the £30,000 limit on relief, borrowers able to take advantage of tax relief on improvement loans have been mainly confined to the North and Midlands. In view of the priority which consumers appear to attach to spending on their homes, irrespective of tax relief, the subsidy from the taxpayer was particularly inappropriate.

Spending has also held up strongly on company cars where the Chancellor took a severe bite out of the tax advantages, though without ending them altogether. As Roger White of Peat Marwick said: "There has been no behavioural change at all: it's just that it hurts more."

There are attractions in having a company car which are not assessed for tax purposes. Many value the convenience, some the snob value.

A survey by Hertz found that two-thirds of those with a company car would prefer to keep it even if the tax advantages disappeared. Although people's behaviour may have been distorted less than supposed by this particular tax perk the case for continuing to subsidize it from general tax revenues is now non-existent.

Spending on forestry assets has reacted to the Budget more clearly. This had reached the stage of being generated almost entirely by the substantial tax advantages attached which the Chancellor effectively removed. It will take time before the change is visible in as slow-moving a business as forestry, but the impression is that the firms which service the forestry business are not exactly having a bail.

Finally, bringing capital gains tax into line with marginal rates of income tax has had a marked effect on investors' preferences as between capital and income-producing assets. Re-basing CGT to March 1982 had the intended effect of unfreezing assets bearing a relatively large tax liability, but reinvestment has as often been in high yielding bank accounts as in the equity market. The rise in rates and the stock market crash have contributed to this process. But it is interesting to consider — so long as you are not a market-maker — what the long term effect on equities may be.

Rodney Lord  
Economics Editor



## Message to all Avdel shareholders

A client of Schroders has indicated that it will offer 92p for your Avdel Ordinary shares conditional upon Banner agreeing to accept the offer.

Shareholders holding over 34% of Avdel's Ordinary shares have indicated that they wish to accept this offer in the absence of a higher bid and have urged Banner to agree to accept.

If you have accepted Banner's offer, unless Banner's offer becomes unconditional, you are free to withdraw your acceptance.

If you wish to withdraw your acceptance please complete the Notice of Withdrawal sent to you by Avdel and ring S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. on (01-) 860 1090.

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Carol Leonard











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The closing date for applications will be Friday,  
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UNIVERSITY  
of Reading

## Appointments

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LAND MANAGEMENT

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lead in the evolution of the theory and practice  
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Applications are welcome from candidates  
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professional or other experience in the field,  
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training of the next generation of leaders in the  
profession. In addition they should be able to  
give academic leadership in research and  
possess the managerial ability to sustain and  
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Further information may be obtained from the  
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PO Box 217, University, Whiteknights, Reading  
RG6 2AA. (Telephone 0734 516045).  
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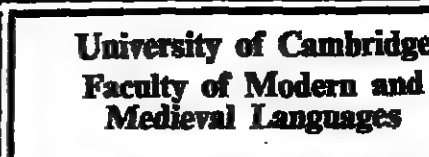
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## UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Faculty of Modern and  
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RUGBY UNION: CLOUGH UTTERS A REMINDER TO THE ENGLAND SELECTORS WHILE KIMMINS EMERGES AS A HUGE PRESENCE THEY CANNOT IGNORE

# London's bright lights to go on tour

By David Hands  
Rugby CorrespondentLondon... 27  
Midlands... 6

Imber Court, as befits a police ground, is a functional venue but the rugby played by London on the way to winning the Toshiba divisional championship for the first time has been more than that. It has been intelligent and attractive to player and spectator. Hence the considerable satisfaction which attaches to their success.

On Saturday they were unable to confirm victory over Midlands until the final quarter, by which time the result from Orrell was known, but there was never any doubt that they would. By the end, the Midlands pack had been splintered, their lineout beaten and their captain injured and off the field, London deserved their winning margin of a goal, three tries and three penalty goals to a goal, which brought them the divisional title on points difference from North, last season's champions.

London are hoping to tour as a division next year, with six matches in Queensland and New South Wales, a possibility. The Soviet Union, which holds an annual tournament in late summer, has also been discussed as a potential venue. "It would be ideal to tour at the start of our season," Graham Smith, the chairman of London selectors, said. "We hope to know by the end of January."

It has been London's good fortune that they have two first division clubs, Harlequins and Wasps, playing a similar brand of rugby, from which to choose. They have also encouraged loyalty and

been rewarded by the players, many of whom on Saturday uttered reminders to the national selectors, notably Clough at centre, who had a particularly forthright game and gave Harley a difficult afternoon.

They led 10-0 at the interval, by which stage Midlands had shared the lineout but remained pinned constantly in their own 22. They found the greatest difficulty putting together a positive game because they missed many first tackles and were always working on the retreat. London, true to the creed they have expressed from the outset, counter-attacked well through Thresher and the

## Final table

London	North	South	West	Midlands
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wings, but it was interesting to see Thompson kicking more judiciously than in previous games.

Pegler, London's captain, said it was a far more physical game than the win over North the previous weekend: "But we have a good set of backs who use the ball well, and if there is nothing on they can keep it in play." The ability of those backs to probe for weaknesses helped nullify the threat posed by the Midlands back row, with Thompson drawing the defence to him before releasing Salmon. Richards, in any case, was in difficulties after discovering at the first scrum that his shoulder ligaments had not mended properly, though he played on despite the discomfort the Midlands scrum drive must have suffered.

Perhaps more should have

been rewarded by the players, many of whom on Saturday uttered reminders to the national selectors, notably Clough at centre, who had a particularly forthright game and gave Harley a difficult afternoon.

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It was fitting, too, that the Harlequins locks should share the last try: they have worked successfully throughout the championship. So when Edwards broke away from a lineout 15 metres out, Ackford was on hand to go over in the corner. Good police work by the metropolitan inspector on a police ground.

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Perhaps more should have



Centre of attraction: Salmon will not be caged by the two Tigers, Curworth and Richards

## North left holding the plinth as the cup goes elsewhere

By Michael Stevenson

North... 27  
South... 14

North's uneasy victory, by two tries and two penalties, over South and South-West at Orrell on Saturday in the final round of the Toshiba divisional matches did not reveal much to Messrs Cooke and Elliott, who saw it. They knew already that Carling is the best centre in the country, that when he stirs himself, Rory Underwood is comfortably the best wing; that Winterbottom is a hard-grinding iron man; and that Teague is a class No. 8.

They will have noted with some concern the frailties in Morris's game, allied to his wonderful natural talent. He gave as good as he got in his duel with Hill.

Hill's service was superior but Morris was far sharper on the break and he worked as effectively with Buckton as Hill did with his Bath colleagues.

Buckton was great but it seems the selectors have decided that he lacks physical presence, so his talent may be denied the chance to prove itself internationally.

The one relatively unknown player to come of age here was Kimmings, the best forward in their team.

A huge man, he is extraordinarily mobile, an adroit ball-handler and an authentic and effective lineout jumper, either in the middle or at No. 2. It will be said if he is not soon in contention for an England place.

The probable destination of the championship meant that the cup was deposited at Imber Court, where London were playing Midlands, while the plinth travelled to Orrell in case of a draw.

None was forthcoming, even though the late withdrawal of Peers and the instantment of Townsend meant that North did not possess a recognized goal-kicker.

Carling disguised this shortcoming with two well-taken penalties to a sifter by Barnes and North, with the breeze on their backs, went further ahead as Townsend hoisted a high. South-West won the ruck and Hill applied the ball forward for Dooley to pick up and launch his vast frame over two defenders like a dolphin.

The pressure continued and, after another scarring run by Carling, South-West offloaded at a ruck and, after a tap penalty, Winterbottom helped to fashion a superb try by Underwood to open up a 16-6 cushion, on which North could sit out the second half.

Despite glorious counter-attacks from deep positions, aided by weak tackling by the South-West centres, North only just managed it and Hill's blind move, supported by Barnes, brought South-West's defence altered the angle of his run, a late try which Barnes converted.

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## Glynneath have the last laugh

By Gerald Davies



TENNIS: PLAYERS ACCEPT THE SURRENDER OF THE DAVIS CUP TO WEST GERMANY WITH A TYPICAL EQUANIMITY

# Sweden doubts the will to win

From David Miller  
Gothenburg

Stefan Edberg and Anders Jarryd and their captain, Hans Olsson, came to the interview room on Saturday and you would never have known whether they had won or lost. The fact that the Swedish doubles pair had just surrendered a two sets to love lead, and with it the Davis Cup, seemed to affect the trio no more than they missed the bus to work. Swedish equanimity, in victory or defeat, is a phenomenon without parallel in the world of sport.

It can be said that acceptance of defeat in this matter offers a lesson, and a philosophy, which every overstressed, emotional or aggressive competitor should seek to emulate. "We have the right to lose," Olsson said with a trace of defiance in the face of critics. "To be runners-up is satisfactory." Yet West Germany's victory, which to neutral foreign observers was a Christmas present to outstrip them all, inevitably raises questions about Sweden's will to win, or lack of it, which has been an embarrassment to fellow-countrymen.

This extraordinarily improbable result — a 3-0 winning margin for West Germany after the first two days, having trailed by two sets to love in two of the three matches — has pitched Swedish sport into a debate that will run and run.

Due credit must, of course, be given to West Germany; to the grit of Carl-Uwe Steeb for staying in an opening match with Mats Wilander that was "impossible" to win, to Boris

Becker for executing Edberg in the second singles with a repeat of his Masters-winning form, and to Eric Jelen for helping Becker to turn around an inexplicably forfeited doubles.

It may have been at times bizarre tennis, yet it generated a quite exceptional drama. Even hard-bitten, travel-weary tennis correspondents, whose palms had not been made to sweat in 10 years free of expectation, admitted that they were involuntarily drawn into an emotional web of unpredictability.

Indoubtedly the result is good for tennis, not to mention for the West Germans. It reversed the home defeat in

## Final results

West Germany 4, Sweden 1. West Germany: Jelen 6-4, 6-4, 6-4; Steeb 6-4, 6-4, 6-4; Jelen 6-4, 6-4, 6-4; Steeb 6-4, 6-4, 6-4; Jelen 6-4, 6-4, 6-4; Steeb 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

## 1989 draw

WORLD GROUP: Sweden v Italy, Austria v Australia, Yugoslavia v Denmark, Spain v France, Czechoslovakia v Soviet Union, West Germany v Poland.

Munich three years ago. Less certain in whether, as some claim, the result is good for Swedish tennis, on the grounds that it will shake them out of any complacency arising from almost habitual appearance in the final.

Three fundamental questions must be answered by the Swedes, which leave in their wake any virtue of being good losers. Did Wilander, Edberg and Jarryd lose because they were tired; because they did not care sufficiently; or because Olsson is a captain

incapable of motivating his team and, critically, incapable of changing tactics in a losing position?

Undoubtedly Wilander, the world's No. 1 and triple Grand Slam title winner in 1988, is jaded, suffering from shin injuries. The controversy of defeat was given a further twist yesterday when Sweden scratched from the fifth match of the final, on the grounds that Wilander, Kent Carlsson (thigh muscles) and Jarryd (shoulder) were all unfit to meet a German opponent.

The injuries were verified by Professor Bertil Stener, a medical consultant for the federation; and though the crowd booed Olsson, with unsavoury yet understandable frustration when he announced the decision to scratch, a fourth and final singles would have been irrelevant to the final as Edberg's 6-4, 8-6 victory yesterday over Steeb.

Wilander's defeat, after leading Steeb 10-8, 6-1, can be explained by fatigue, and Edberg's, to a degree, by Becker's brilliance. The debate therefore narrows to whether Olsson was right in the first place to omit Carlsson from either singles position; and whether he should have been more instrumental in advising Edberg and Jarryd when their 6-3, 6-2 lead over Becker and Jelen began to disintegrate.

Edberg is ranked No. 5 in singles and Jarryd No. 1 in doubles in the world. For almost two sets, from 3-3 in the first, they were in a different league to Becker and Jelen on Saturday. For the

only time in 12 service games, Edberg had break point against him in the opening game of the match, and he played throughout with a steadiness which might, the previous night, have given Becker more resistance. But with Jelen surrendering his service twice and Becker once, the Swedish pair, within one hour of the start, were on the brink of taking the final to a third day.

Now, however, there was a metamorphosis. Jelen vital held his serve for 2-1 in the third set, and suddenly it was Jarryd whose nerve had gone. He held his serve for 2-2 just, after three break points. Becker was warned for throwing his racket after squandering the first of them. Jarryd's luck did not last. He could hardly throw up the ball for nerves, and lost his next six consecutive service games. Sweden had given away the match and the Cup by 3-6, 2-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-2.

Never did Olsson seemingly offer more than avuncular encouragement. The situation cried out for variation: for Edberg to play "tandem" on Jarryd's service, standing on the same side of court as the net to oblige the receiver to play the more difficult return down the line. Edberg did so on a mere two points.

The Swedes should have done anything to disrupt the pattern. Instead, Jelen improved with every game, and Becker, whose mind seemed previously to have advanced already to Day 3, suddenly got the scent of victory and tigerishly went in pursuit of it.

Asked whether the Swedish temperament, personified by Borg and so often an advantage, was not sometimes a disadvantage, Edberg said: "We have our own style, our own temperament. We played the way we always play. We can't change."

Swedish newspapers have raised the question of whether Carl-Axel Hageskog, Jarryd's personal coach, should replace Olsson as captain. Hageskog was the Olympic team manager in Seoul, where Edberg and Jarryd won only a doubles bronze, as did Edberg in singles. It is doubtful whether Hageskog would alter national character. The Swedes either win because they are better. Or they lose. Besides, Olsson is valued by the players precisely because of his equanimity.



Becker: celebrating a remarkable recovery in the doubles

## Steeb helps spread the load

From Richard Evans, Gothenburg

At 14, Carl-Uwe Steeb used to beat Boris Becker just about every time they played. But fame visits some people later than others and it has taken Charlie, as he is known in the locker room, a long time to steal a little of Becker's lightning.

Becker, a good team man, is quite happy about that. It is no fun trying to carry an entire Davis Cup team on your shoulders, and Becker, who has never been asked to play as freely as he did against Stefan Edberg, has Steeb not given West Germany the unexpected luxury of a 1-0 lead.

Looking back, the whole rested on the way that Steeb handled Mats Wilander's match point. Managers like that sort out the men from the boys at this

level and the enormous forehead with which Steeb lambasted Wilander's serve — a shot that clipped the back edge of the line — stamped Steeb as a player who can handle the pressure. Whether this will be reflected immediately on the tournament circuit, where his ATP ranking is ridiculously low at 74, remains to be seen. Almost all of Steeb's success has come in non-Grand Slam events, a fine example being his win over Ivan Lendl in the Stuttgart Classic last month and, more importantly, the best record of any No. 1 player in the Bundesliga last summer — the powerful West German international in which many foreign players compete.

Steeb had an 11-1 record for Stuttgart Walden that included

a victory, over the deadly Swede, Kent Carlsson, on clay. So it was hardly surprising he found the team atmosphere of a Davis Cup squad reassuringly familiar.

Now that Steeb has split from the Stuttgart nightclub owner, Klaus Lattewasser, who helped him through his early, penniless years, Charlie will probably join the Ion Tiriac stable and never have to worry about a Desschur win over Lendl.

The strongly-built left-hander, who plays excellent football, has already become a popular figure on the tour and, along with his colleague Eric Jelen, is poised to give Becker the support that has been lacking for years and help to create a German tennis dynasty to match that of the Swedes.

## Hard-hitting gems of heavyweight wit

*Srikumar Sen and Colin McQuillan, continuing our review of the best sports books of the year, make a selection from boxing and squash racks.*

Ever since Tony Galento said of William Shakespeare: "I ain't heard of him. I suppose he's one of them foreign heavyweights. They're all lousy. Sure as hell I'll moider dat bum," boxing writers have dined out on quotations from boxers, trainers, managers and promoters.

Their wit, observations and malapropisms have brightened many a column. It is now a truism that to read *The Book of Boxing Quotations* by Harry Mullan, the editor of *Boxing News*, is like going to the gym and coming up with a page full of gems. It is well indexed and sources given should the reader want to follow up a quotation.

The old favourites are there, of course: "Honey, I forgot to duck," as Dempsey told his wife after his defeat by Tunney; and the cry by Joe Louis: "I ain't Schmeling's defeat by Sharkey: "We wuz robbed — we shoulda stood in bed."

The moderns are rather more colourful in their descriptions and sharper in their observations.

Muhammad Ali: "I'm so fast I can turn off the light and be in bed before it's dark."

## A definitive account is brought up to date

Unusually in a field often of repetitively mediocre, this year's discriminating sacker after literary squash gifts is presented with a difficult choice between historical inspiration and instructional value.

Only one truly accurate and enjoyable account of the origins and progress of squash has been published and that was *The Story of Squash*, by Rex Bellamy. Not too surprising, then, that this year's historical contribution is Bellamy's update of his own work, reissued by Heinemann Kingswood as *Squash — A History*.

Although Bellamy, *The Times* tennis correspondent, no longer covers squash regularly, his continued interest in the game is evidenced here by a skilful extension of his original narrative to include the arrival of players such as Jahangir Khan, Jansher Khan, Chris Dittmar, Ross Norman and others since his first book.

Yet the strength of this latest work still lies in unique research carried out in Pakistan during the 1970s. This is the only authoritative account, for instance, of the schism between Hashim Khan and Roshan, the

Vinnie Pazienza: "His legs turned to spaghetti and I was all over him like the sauce."

Larry Holmes: "Right now I've got a roll of \$100 bills in my pocket with a gold money clip around them. When I was a truck driver I used to carry \$10 in singles wrapped in a rubber band."

The promoters are given the treatment, specially Bob Arum and Don King. What they say about each other and what others have to say about them will give even the uninitiated reader a clear insight into the game. It was a relief to find that King, the most long-winded man on the planet Earth, can be brief and to the point as well.

"When you can count your money, you ain't got none."

It is a brilliant book. After you put it down, you know there has got to be a return match.

*Boxing Quotations* is a dancing footwork and fancy combinations, Frank McGhee's *England's Boxing Heroes* is in classic English left-right style. McGhee, who was the Chief Sports Writer of the *Daily Mirror*, covers leading English boxers from Fitzsimmons to Brown, 40 in all. Anyone who wants to recall the good old days should buy this book. It is the boxing fan's equivalent of a Cornonation were collection.

*The Book of Boxing Quotations*, Harry Mullan, published by Stanley Paul at £7.95.

*England's Boxing Heroes*, Frank McGhee, published by Bloomsbury at £12.95.

father of Jahangir Khan, who led to Roshan seeking asylum in the streets of Karachi and arriving in London penniless before either Hashim or his brother Azam could be persuaded to allow him a share of their squash funds.

For those more concerned with on-court matters of the moment, the latest addition in the Willow Books sporting instructions series, *Improve Your Squash*, will come as a welcome departure from the normal arid avenues of technical repetition.

Introduced by Ross Norman, who chased Jahangir Khan to his first defeat in five and a half years when winning the 1986 world championship, this is a compilation of professional advice covering basic shot-making, tactics, training, psychology, diet and injuries.

Eight writers are involved behind the Norman frontpiece. Not all are widely known outside the game, but each has earned notable respect within it.

*Squash — A History*, by Rex Bellamy (Heinemann), Kingswood, £10.95; *Improve Your Squash* (Collins Willow Books, £12.95).

## SWIMMING: BRITISH WOMEN SCORE TRIPLE TRIUMPH IN INAUGURAL WORLD CUP

From Steven Downes, Indianapolis

## Brownsdon heads standings

It was triples all round as the Toronto leg of the inaugural World Cup ended on Saturday. The Hungarian backstroke, Tamas Dautsch and Kristina Egervari, proved unbeatable. Anders Holmertz took the 100, 200 and 400 metres freestyle, and Steve Brownsdon achieved a threesome of World Cup goals.

Brownsdon's victory in the 100 metres breaststroke by 0.54sec was remarkable since it was achieved in spite of three poor turns: had she not glided to the wall so much, Alison Hignson's Commonwealth best would have been in peril. Brownsdon shattered the opposition with a sub-30 second breaststroke section of the 400 metres medley, to leave nearly four seconds off her best.

That win, together with her earlier 100 metres medley victory, puts Brownsdon top of the first set of World Cup standings in that category, a leading position which the Portsmouth pair of Grant Robins and Madeleine Scarborough share in their events.

Just a couple of months ago,

no one would have suggested that Britain would have had a backstroke swimmer in an international competition, but at Toronto, Robins twice came within a touch of beating Dautsch, and in the 100 metres final, had the consolation of taking nearly one-tenth off Doug Campbell's six-year-old British record.

Scarborough, meanwhile, had earlier won the 100 metres butterfly, having teamed up with Brownsdon, Karen Pickering and Joanne Deakin for a national record in the 200 metres medley relay.

Almost before they were dry, the international swimmers were on their way to Indianapolis, where the US Open is the second stage of the World Cup. For the swimmer, a shift in emphasis will be the change from short to long-course.

The Europeans and Canadians come here from the midst of a winter season of 25-metre pool racing, and while Robins intends to shelve down to establish his backstroke credentials, the

transition may not be quite so straightforward.

RESULTS: British women stand: 100m Freestyle: Steve F. Hignson (W.G.) 1:04.50sec. 200m Freestyle: Steve F. Hignson (W.G.) 2:12.50sec. 400m Freestyle: Steve F. Hignson (W.G.) 4:28.50sec. 100m Breaststroke: Steve F. Hignson (W.G.) 1:10.50sec. 200m Breaststroke: Steve F. Hignson (W.G.) 2:22.50sec. 400m Breaststroke: Steve F. Hignson (W.G.) 4:45.50sec. 100m Butterfly: Steve F. Hignson (W.G.) 1:04.50sec. 200m Butterfly: Steve F. Hignson (W.G.) 2:12.50sec. 400m Butterfly: Steve F. Hignson (W.G.) 4:28.50sec. 100m Backstroke: Steve F. Hignson (W.G.) 1:10.50sec. 200m Backstroke: Steve F. Hignson (W.G.) 2:22.50sec. 400m Backstroke: Steve F. Hignson (W.G.) 4:45.50sec.

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## Freestyle treble for Croft

June Croft completed a treble of freestyle victories at the Imperial Trident Open swim meeting in Gloucester yesterday, when she won the 400 metres race, 200 metres relay and 100 metres individual.

Her time of 4mins 15.97secs yesterday gave her a winning margin of more than eight seconds over Nicola Sommer. Duncan Rolley won the 200 metres medley in a time of 2mins 03.99secs to miss the English record by a mere half of a second.

RESULTS: 100m freestyle: June Croft (W.G.) 1:04.50sec. 200m freestyle: June Croft (W.G.) 2:12.50sec. 400m freestyle: June Croft (W.G.) 4:28.50sec. 100m breaststroke: June Croft (W.G.) 1:10.50sec. 200m breaststroke: June Croft (W.G.) 2:22.50sec. 400m breaststroke: June Croft (W.G.) 4:45.50sec. 100m butterfly: June Croft (W.G.) 1:04.50sec. 200m butterfly: June Croft (W.G.) 2:12.50sec. 400m butterfly: June Croft (W.G.) 4:28.50sec. 100m backstroke: June Croft (W.G.) 1:10.50sec. 200m backstroke: June Croft (W.G.) 2:22.50sec. 400m backstroke: June Croft (W.G.) 4:45.50sec.

## Rivers authority's objectives

By Conrad Voss Bark

The structure of the proposed National Rivers Authority is described in the Water Bill going through Parliament. New water quality objectives, the Bill says, will be set by the Environment Secretary, which the authority, the NRA, "will take steps to attain".

This is an important provision for game fishermen if carried out for water quality in many rivers has deteriorated badly in the past 10 years.

The NRA will be required to control discharges, to manage water resources including the operation of abstraction licences, to supervise land drainage and flood defence, and to take over fisheries, navigation, conservation and harbour functions in place of the regional water authorities.

There will be a power for the

Government to pay grant in aid to the NRA as a contribution to expenses. For the first year the grant is likely to be £70 million towards an estimated expenditure of £230 million. The NRA will be given the power to raise capital expenditure on land drainage and flood defence by £200 million in 1990/91.

A principal function of the NRA will be to "maintain and enhance" the quality of inland, coastal and underground waters, and "to take all practicable steps" to achieve water quality objectives set by the Environment Secretary.

The NRA will be the pollution control agency, regulating all polluting discharges through a consent system. Discharging effluent in breach of a prohibition will be an offence. There

will be a code of practice to help farmers avoid pollution. Research funds will be set up to help farmers "take account" of the NRA in deciding on water pollution.

Information about water quality will be kept by the NRA and will be available to the public. The NRA will be required to "investigate, conserve and develop" inland, coastal and underground waters, and fisheries, assisted by regional fishery advisory committees.

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## TODAY'S FIXTURES

### FOOTBALL

CENTRAL LEAGUE: Second division: Port Vale v Oldham (7.0).

OVERSEAS PAPERS: COMBINATION: NPS LEAGUE LEAGUE: Portsmouth v Southampton (7.0).

SECOND DIVISION: Portsmouth v Southampton (7.0).

THIRD DIVISION: Portsmouth v Southampton (7.0).

FOURTH DIVISION: Portsmouth v Southampton (7.0).

FIFTH DIVISION: Portsmouth v Southampton (7.0).

SIXTH DIVISION: Portsmouth v Southampton (7.0).

SEVENTH DIVISION: Portsmouth v Southampton (7.0).

EIGHTH DIVISION: Portsmouth v Southampton (7.0).

NINTH DIVISION: Portsmouth v Southampton (7.0).

TENTH DIVISION: Portsmouth v Southampton (7.0).

### OTHER SPORT

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston Red Sox v New York Yankees (7.0).

NATIONAL LEAGUE: St. Louis Cardinals v Cincinnati Reds (7.0).

WORLD LEAGUE: St. Louis Cardinals v Cincinnati Reds (7.0).

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### LACROSSE

#### Mellor suffer a rare defeat

Mellor, the north of England men's club champions, suffered their first defeat of the season, beaten 15-14 by Rochdale, on Saturday (Peter Tutlow writes).

Hampton and Hillcroft have finished top of the South of England Conference A and B.

They are joined by Purley, Keston, Bait, London University, Beckenham Hill and Oxford University in a new league to be established after Christmas.

## Schneider shows her technical superiority

From Isin Macleod, Val Zoldan, Austria

Having exchanged the sub-zero temperatures of Austria for the more temperate Italian Dolomites, Vreni Schneider, of Switzerland, yesterday emphasised that, irrespective of conditions, she is the world's supreme technical skier.

Schneider, who won the women's slalom in Altenmarkt on Friday, achieved her second consecutive World Cup giant slalom victory with such overwhelming superiority that it brought a glowing tribute from Michael Stettin, the champion.

The young Yugoslav, who is seen as the heir-apparent to Schneider's crown, was a second behind the winning time of 2min 28.40sec. Svet, though, was followed in her praise: "She is, for me, without any doubt the best," Svet said.

Although there was only a covering snow here, the preparatory work left the Foppe course to the liking of all the racers. "It was long and the snow was very soft," Svet said.

Two dramatic falls, however, proved to have quite a bearing on the results. Michaela Gerg, of West Germany, pushing too hard towards the finish line, tumbled, missed a gate and was decided fourth place.

And, for Ulrike Maier, of Austria, who was comfortably ahead by 1.17sec after the first run, there was the disappointment for the second time this season of squandering a lead. Maier was second, while Schneider was third. The biggest surprise, however, came from Regina Moser.

## EQUESTRIANISM

## Belgian rider has his reward for a consistent season

By Jenny MacArthur

The little known Belgian rider, Ludo Philippaerts, made his first appearance at the Olympia show jumping championships a memorable one by taking the Volvo World Cup qualifier on Saturday on Darco, winning the jump-off on a course considered insufficiently demanding by several riders.

John Whitaker and Nest Milton, the winners of the Brussels qualifier on the previous weekend, were relegated to third place behind Austria's Thomas Fruhmuth.

Whitaker, who is now at the head of the European league for the World Cup, said before leaving for the Grenoble show, that he did not think the jump-off course asked enough of the horses, relying, as it did, on speed alone.

That, however, should not detract from Philippaerts' performance. He and Darco, an eight-year-old bred in Belgium, have been regularly placed throughout the season. They were third in the Rotterdam grand prix in the summer and fifth in Brussels earlier this month. The way they attacked Saturday's course suggested they would have been hard to beat, whatever its standard of difficulty.

Whitaker, who had the misfortune to go first, was nevertheless fast and clear. Fruhmuth, despite having a fall in the practice arena just beforehand, recovered in time to compete and was faster than Whitaker. Philippaerts followed him into the ring and, relying on his own instincts — there were no other Belgian riders at the show to advise him — managed to cut third of a second off

Fruhmuth's time to claim the £13,000 Volvo car.

He is now in eighth place in the European league and hopeful of a place at the final in Tampa, Florida, next April.

Fruhmuth, clearly unimpressed by his fall, went on to finish joint first on Butterfly in the Modern Alarm Puissance, in which the wall reached 7ft 1in in the final round. Yesterday, on Mayflower, he was joint winner of the Christmas Cracker Six-Day.

RESULTS: Volvo World Cup: 1. Darco II, Philippaerts (Belgium), 2. 25.41sec; 2. Nest Milton (J. Whitaker), 2. 25.80sec; 3. Thomas Fruhmuth (Austria), 3. 26.21sec; 4. John Whitaker (Belgium), 4. 26.62sec; 5. John Whitaker (Belgium), 5. 27.03sec; 6. John Whitaker (Belgium), 6. 27.44sec; 7. John Whitaker (Belgium), 7. 27.85sec; 8. John Whitaker (Belgium), 8. 28.26sec; 9. John Whitaker (Belgium), 9. 28.67sec; 10. John Whitaker (Belgium), 10. 29.08sec.

Next year's Olympia show will host the final of a new competition, the British Horse Society's Riding Clubs' National Top Score championship in aid of Help the Aged. Riders will receive points for the qualifying rounds — held throughout the country — held to the charity.

Sophie Newman, a team gold medal winner at the season's Junior European Three-Day Event championships, is the recipient of this year's Subaru three-day event scholarship. She will spend eight months training with Angela and Michael Tucker in Gloucestershire. She has been extended sponsorship of the Tuckers' team until 1991.

## ATHLETICS

## Talented Tunstall under pressure

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

Being born in the Dales, near Preston, evidently helped nurture Steve Tunstall's talent for uphill running, which he put to such good use in dominating, and eventually winning, the Miller-Lite IAC cross country in Cardiff. Ron Hill, an illustrious predecessor, from nearby Bolton, once said: "I felt more like a mountain goat at times."

But Tunstall also ascribed his climbing capacity to his time in the French Foreign Legion mountain patrol in Corsica. One did wonder what he had left up his sleeve if somebody had actually threatened to beat him on Saturday. But he assured us that the Legion is much changed nowadays.

Tunstall is full of surprises. A year ago, hardly anyone in British athletics had ever heard of him. Dave Lewis, of neighbouring Rosendale Harriers, three years older at 27 and finally beaten on the last hill, "vaguely remembered him from his Preston AC days." Tunstall finished 79th in the national youths cross country in 1981, prior to joining the Legion for five years, during which he rediscovered his talent, and worked on it so well that he finished 14th in the world cross country, while he was running for France last March.

Having left France, and the Legion, requalification will take one year, so Tunstall will miss a chance to run for Britain in next March's world cross-country in

Norway. That also means that he should not run the British trial



# Gunner Mac set for Kelso encore

By Mandarin

Gunner Mac, most impressive on his debut over fences at Kelso a fortnight ago, is strongly fancied to follow up when he returns to the popular Scottish track for today's Gattoside Novices' Chase.

The winner of three races on the flat and three over hurdles, Neville Bycroft's versatile five-year-old promises to be even better over the larger obstacles.

On his first attempt over fences, Gunner Mac's jumping improved as the race progressed and challenging at the last, he ran on well to beat South Sunrise by a length. Birling Jack, 12 lengths away third, flanked the form by defying 12 stone in a novice handicap chase at Ayr on Friday.

Like most of Gunner B's progeny, and indeed Gunner B himself, Gunner Mac has improved with age - his flat wins all came as a four-year-old - and he should prove too good for the Carlisle winner, Shoon Wind.

Peter Niven, who rides Gunner Mac, will be hoping that The Builder can recapture his excellent form of two seasons ago when he returns to active duty in the Guy Bailey Handicap Chase.

Without a run for 20 months and with 12st 3lb to carry, though, The Builder may be best watched on this occasion and preference is for Target Man, who showed his well-being when a good second to Whats What at Catterick 12 days ago.

The consistent and versatile

Tactico looks a sound investment in the St Boswells Handicap Chase.

Donald Fairgrieve placed his six-year-old cleverly to win a handicap hurdle at the last Kelso meeting but Tactico had previously run a good race over fences at Ascot when fourth to Prize Asset, only six lengths behind Saturday's Ascot winner, Ida's Delight in third.

Before that, Tactico had finished a three-length second to Centre Attraction over today's course and distance and he looks poised to take his revenge on 10th better terms.

Green Archer, a good second at Nottingham on Saturday, makes a quick reappearance in the Cardona Handicap Hurdle while Rubydora can begin to fulfil

the promise of her good bumper performances by making a winning debut over timber in the Hoechst Panacur EBF Mares Only Novices' Hurdle.

Richard Dunwoody looks the jockey to follow at Towcester where he has bright prospects of landing a treble with Celtic Barle (12.30), Five Corners (1.0) and Waterloo Boy (2.30), the last two for David Nicholson.

Celtic Barle, trained by Terry Casey, has shaped well on both his outings over hurdles, particularly when a half-length Warwick second to Cash Is King.

He has Peter Scudamore's mount, Battalion, to beat in the first division of the Christmas Pudding Novices' Hurdle.

The champion teams up with the Martin Pipe-trained External Credit in the Save and Prosper Handicap Chase and the six-year-old, a winner at Perth in May when trained by Roger Fisher, can take full advantage of the two stone he receives from Direct Approach.

Shaer Elation, who takes a considerable drop in class, is napped to beat eight moderate rivals in the Turkey and Ham Conditional Jockeys' Selling Hurdle.

Toby Balding's four-year-old finished just out of the frame in big novice hurdle fields several times last season and again ran well when sixth to Chasso Forte at Wincanton on her reappearance. A reproduction of that effort should be good enough.



Richard Dunwoody and Celtic Chief clear the final flight on their way to a one-length victory over Calapez in the HSS Hire Shops Hurdle at Ascot on Saturday

## Champion back today despite heavy Ascot fall

By George Rae

Peter Scudamore resumes riding at Towcester today after twisting neck muscles in a spectacular fall from Strands Of Gold in the SGB Handicap Chase at Ascot on Saturday. He gave up a subsequent mount on Mouda.

Throughout the adulation of a record-breaking season, the champion jockey has never lost sight of the fine line between triumph and disaster - "It could all end tomorrow" is a favourite caution - and the reason was there for all to see.

The 13-8 joint-favourite completely ignored the third fence and crashed straight into it, catapulting Scudamore over his head and down into the ground. He returned shaken but, by National Hunt standards, relatively unscathed, and after physiotherapy on Saturday evening is set to return.

He sometimes misses one out, said Scudamore, "just the way he did when he fell at Becher's in the National."

Martin Pipe yesterday reported Strands Of Gold went out with a broken neck, but the gelding was not expected to be governed by his return to full fitness.

Ballyhane was the principal beneficiary from Strands Of Gold's fall, surviving an untidy jump when clear at the last to hold Sun Rising by a neck. "He was idling in front and still has plenty to learn," said trainer Josh Gifford. "They hurried him early but his jumping settled down as he went on."

The Findon trainer was winning the race for the third time in four years with a horse owned by Jim Joll, Door Laid having landed the spoils in 1985 and 1986.

He's in the King George but that's getting a bit too high at this stage and another handicap would suit him better," Gifford said.

added. "The Mandarin Chase at Newbury will be his next race and then he'll be prepared for the Gold Cup." Ballyhane is generally quoted at 25-1 for Cheltenham.

Gifford and Peter Hobbs had initiated a double with French Goblin in the Youngmans Long Walk Hurdle, and he too made the most of his luck when Rustie, who looked the likely winner, dislodged Michael Bowley after the final flight.

French Goblin's win postponed his move to novice chasing until next season. He will now go for the Daily Telegraph Hurdle at Ascot on February 8, the Remembrance Hurdle at Kempton later that month and then the Waterford Crystal Stayers' Hurdle at the Cheltenham festival.

Ida's Delight, trained by Alanis Charlton in Northampton, made his third start when landing the Frognore Handicap Chase, beating Mouda, on whom Michael Walford, deputized, by a short head. Ida's Delight will return for the Victor Chandler Handicap Chase on January 14, although even with a 4lb penalty his weight is only 8st 10lb.

The David Elsworth-trained Brandon Pier justified pre-race confidence in the Hampton Court Handicap Hurdle for amateur riders, and Elsworth subsequently confirmed the well-being of Desert Orchid for the King George VI Rank Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day.

Barrowdown, again, who also holds the King George engagement, will run instead at either Wincanton on Boxing Day or at Leopardstown two days later, while Cavies Clown could go for the Coral Welsh National at Chepstow or take on Ballyhane in the Mandarin.

Celtic Chief, a best friend 8-1 with Ladbrokes for the Champion Hurdle following his win in the HSS Hire Shops Hurdle at Ascot on Saturday, will run next in either the Top Rank Christmas Hurdle at Kempton or Windsor's New Year Hurdle (George Rae writes).

The former, with anti-post Cheltenham favourite Kribbles and the reigning champion Celtic Shot as probable runners, would be the more difficult option, and would also represent a change of heart by trainer Mickey Mann. "I have always felt that Kempton would not suit him, but I may have to alter that view," he said.

Should Rimeil opt for Kempton, it will force a decision on Saturday's winning jockey Richard Dunwoody, who is also associated with the Michael Stoute-trained Kribbles.

Although Celtic Chief's win, by a length from Calapez, quickened few pulses his trainer was eminently satisfied. "He missed a few things with a foot problem and he was only just ready to run today," he said.

"He jumped as well as I've seen him and he's become stronger and better balanced. I think it was immaterial when he didn't come down the hill very fast. Cheltenham and he'll handle it better next time."

Jimmy Frost, slightly concerned when Combermere was brought down by Cashew King, has been stood down for 48 hours. He hopes to resume at Ludlow tomorrow.

Danish Flight, this year's Arkle Challenge Trophy winner, ended a Nottinghamshire EBF Cobwick Intermediate Chase in a race at Ascot on Saturday and next contests the £25,000 Castleford Chase at Wetherby's Christmas meeting. Mark Dwyer led all the way on the nine-year-old, who was hard held in beating Buncary by seven lengths.

Danish Flight incurs a 4lb penalty for the Wetherby race, bringing his weight to 11st 13lb. After that, Jimmy Fitzgerald has a race at Ascot on January 14 in mind.

Arthur Moore had encouraging news of Roark, who will be attempting to win the Ladbrokes at Leopardstown on January 14 for the second time. "He is well and we are very hopeful," Moore said.

Michael Morris has recently taken charge of Granville Hotel, one of the most promising young sires in Ireland. "He is a very nice individual and the Sun Alliance Hurdle at the festival will be his target," Morris said.

Yesterday, Dreaper reported from his Killisburgh stable that Carvill's Hill was sound and had eaten up. He added that Carvill's Hill was by no means certain to go to Cheltenham this season but that, if he did, the Sun Alliance Chase would be his objective.

Cloanthancy, who disappointed when second favour-

ite for last season's Champion Hurdle, returned to winning form in the Lisnallen Amateur Riders' Hurdle and now goes for the Sean Graham Hurdle at Leopardstown.

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## KELSO

Selections  
By Mandarin

12.15 Bellefleur.  
12.45 Tactico.  
1.15 Rubydora.

1.45 Target Man.  
2.15 Gunner Mac.  
2.45 Green Archer.

Michael Seely's selection: 2.15 Gunner Mac  
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.15 GUNNER MAC.

Going: good to soft

### 12.15 BIRMGHAM NOVICES HURDLE (21.03.1; 2m) (18 runners)

1	00042-0	AZUSA 6 (P. Jeffrey) 5-10-12	K. Jones	54
2	00044-0	BANNEFORD 12 (Mrs S. Bramall) 5-10-12	J. O'Donnell	54
3	00045-0	BELLEMEAD 12 (C. Bramall) 5-10-12	K. Jones	54
4	00046-0	BORDER LOCH 26 (A. Wigg) 5-10-12	J. O'Donnell	54
5	00047-0	BORDER SPARK 18 (Mrs J. Gilmour) 5-10-12	J. O'Donnell	54
6	00048-0	FELL MIST 28 (D. Macdonald) 5-10-12	L. O'Hara	54
7	00049-0	GALLOWAY LAD 38 (John T. Connelley) 5-10-12	P. O'Donnell	54
8	00050-0	LAST OF THE FLEES 18 (Mrs A. Macgregor) 5-10-12	M. D. Macgregor	54
9	00051-0	MARSHAM 18 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	D. O'Donnell	54
10	00052-0	PALM READER 12 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	A. Macgregor	54
11	00053-0	PLAYBOY 215 (Mrs J. Pringle) 5-10-12	A. Macgregor	54
12	00054-0	RHU NA HAVEN 17 (Mrs F. Hogg) 5-10-12	L. Wier	54
13	00055-0	SOYREAN 40 (A. Baily) 5-10-12	T. Hogg	54
14	00056-0	UPWELL 28 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	M. D. Macgregor	54
15	00057-0	VERONA CHIEF 18 (Mrs S. Newbould) 5-10-12	J. O'Donnell	54
16	00058-0	CRONA TRADE 228 (A. Wigg) 5-10-12	B. O'Donnell	54
17	00059-0	ELLIS DAUGHTER 12 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	P. O'Donnell	54
18	00060-0	L. L. L. 22 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	T. Hogg	54
19	00061-0	RED DESIRE 30 (A. Baily) 5-10-12	M. D. Macgregor	54

BETTING: 5-2 Bellefleur, 7-2 Azusa, 8-2 Border Loch, 13-2 Fell Mist, 5-1 Ellis On, 10-1 Palm Reader, 12-1 Border Spark, 18-1 others.

1987: MEETING ABANDONED - FROST

**FORM** AZUSA put up his best effort when just over 6lb at Balmoral at Kelso (2m, good to soft) last term. BELLEMEAD has been below form on his last two starts but has a chance on a head 2nd to Keynote at Hadden Cheltenham. BORDER LOCH runner 10 2nd to Laidlaw's Fury.

**12.45 ST BOSWELLS HANDICAP CHASE (21.45.4; 2m 190yds) (6 runners)**

1	111222	CENTRE ATTRACTION 10 (P. Jeffrey) 5-10-12	K. Jones	54
2	111231	TACTICO 14 (D. Fairgrieve) 5-10-12	J. O'Donnell	54
3	111242	IMPAGNE 38 (D. Fairgrieve) 5-10-12	J. O'Donnell	54
4	111253	TASAR 14 (D. Fairgrieve) 5-10-12	A. Macgregor	54
5	111264	GROUND MASTER 14 (D. Fairgrieve) 5-10-12	M. D. Macgregor	54

Long handicap Ground Master 14-2.

BETTING: 5-2 Tactico, 7-2 Centre Attraction, 4-1 Impagne, 8-1 Tasar, 12-1 Ground Master.

**FORM** CENTRE ATTRACTION was a tall order 5th to Ascot at Cheltenham (2m, good to soft) but he has a chance of reproducing his 3rd place at TACTICO (2m, good to soft) last term. TASAR was a winner over hurdles here (2m, good to soft) last term. TASAR was a winner over hurdles here (2m, good to soft) last term. TASAR was a winner over hurdles here (2m, good to soft) last term.

**1.15 HOECHST PANACUR EBF MARES ONLY NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: 21.23.4; 2m 81) (18 runners)**

1	111222	FORALLOUS 14 (Mrs D. Thomson) 5-10-12	M. D. Macgregor	54
2	111231	FORALLOUS 14 (Mrs D. Thomson) 5-10-12	M. D. Macgregor	54
3	111242	FORALLOUS 14 (Mrs D. Thomson) 5-10-12	M. D. Macgregor	54
4	111253	FORALLOUS 14 (Mrs D. Thomson) 5-10-12	M. D. Macgregor	54
5	111264	FORALLOUS 14 (Mrs D. Thomson) 5-10-12	M. D. Macgregor	54

BETTING: 5-2 Forallos, 7-2 Forallos, 8-2 Forallos, 13-2 Forallos, 5-1 Forallos, 10-1 Forallos, 12-1 Forallos, 18-1 others.

**FORM** FORALLOUS, a 5-1 favourite to Dubois last season, won to beating REGAL, 12-1, at Kelso (2m, good to soft) last term. REGAL, 12-1, at Kelso (2m, good to soft) last term. REGAL, 12-1, at Kelso (2m, good to soft) last term.

**2.00 ETERNAL CREDIT.**  
**2.30 WATERLOO BOY.**  
**3.00 MAJOR MATCH.**  
**3.30 ARCTIC THAI.**

By Michael Seely  
12.30 Battalion. 2.30 WATERLOO BOY (nap).

Going: good

### 12.30 CHRISTMAS PUDDING NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £880; 2m) (18 runners)

1	00042-0	BATTALION 23 (R. Dwyer) 5-10-12	P. Scudamore	54
2	00043-0	CYGNETS BEET 30 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	R. Dwyer	54
3	00044-0	FLYING GEM 12 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	R. Dwyer	54
4	00045-0	FLYING GEM 12 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	R. Dwyer	54
5	00046-0	FLYING GEM 12 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	R. Dwyer	54

BETTING: 11-4 Battalion, 7-2 Celtic Barle, 4-1 Island Set, 7-1 Eastern Quarter, 10-1 Tactico, 14-1 Cayman, 18-1 others.

**1.0 MISTLETOE NOVICES CHASE (Div I: £1,438; 2m 5f 110yds) (10 runners)**

1	00042-0	MISTLETOE 12 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	R. Dwyer	54
2	00043-0	CYGNETS BEET 30 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	R. Dwyer	54
3	00044-0	FLYING GEM 12 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	R. Dwyer	54
4	00045-0	FLYING GEM 12 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	R. Dwyer	54
5	00046-0	FLYING GEM 12 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	R. Dwyer	54

BETTING: 11-4 Battalion, 7-2 Celtic Barle, 4-1 Island Set, 7-1 Eastern Quarter, 10-1 Tactico, 14-1 Cayman, 18-1 others.

**1.30 TURKEY AND HAM CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' SELLING HURDLE (4-Y-O: £848; 2m) (9 runners)**

1	00042-0	INDIAN TRICK 80 (Austin Stroud & Co Ltd) 5-10-12	E. Wheeler	10-12
2	00043-0	MAVENS 12 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	M. Jones	10-12
3	00044-0	MAVENS 12 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	M. Jones	10-12
4	00045-0	MAVENS 12 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	M. Jones	10-12
5	00046-0	MAVENS 12 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	M. Jones	10-12

BETTING: 5-2 Indian Trick, 7-2 Indian Trick, 8-2 Indian Trick, 13-2 Indian Trick, 5-1 Indian Trick, 10-1 Indian Trick, 12-1 Indian Trick, 18-1 others.

## 1.45 GUY BAILEY HANDICAP CHASE (21.57.0; 3m) (10 runners)

1	111222	THE BUILDER 28 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	M. D. Macgregor	54
2	111231	TACTICO 14 (D. Fairgrieve) 5-10-12	J. O'Donnell	54
3	111242	IMPAGNE 38 (D. Fairgrieve) 5-10-12	J. O'Donnell	54
4	111253	TASAR 14 (D. Fairgrieve) 5-10-12	A. Macgregor	54
5	111264	GROUND MASTER 14 (D. Fairgrieve) 5-10-12	M. D. Macgregor	54

BETTING: 5-2 Tactico, 7-2 Centre Attraction, 4-1 Impagne, 8-1 Tasar, 12-1 Ground Master.

**FORM** THE BUILDER was a tall order 5th to Ascot at Cheltenham (2m, good to soft) last term. TACTICO was a winner over hurdles here (2m, good to soft) last term. TACTICO was a winner over hurdles here (2m, good to soft) last term.

**2.15 GATTOSIDE NOVICES CHASE (21.14.5; 2m 81) (8 runners)**

1	111222	GATTOSIDE 12 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	R. Dwyer	54
2	111231	TACTICO 14 (D. Fairgrieve) 5-10-12	J. O'Donnell	54
3	111242	IMPAGNE 38 (D. Fairgrieve) 5-10-12	J. O'Donnell	54
4	111253	TASAR 14 (D. Fairgrieve) 5-10-12	A. Macgregor	54
5	111264	GROUND MASTER 14 (D. Fairgrieve) 5-10-12	M. D. Macgregor	54

BETTING: 5-2 Tactico, 7-2 Centre Attraction, 4-1 Impagne, 8-1 Tasar, 12-1 Ground Master.

**FORM** GATTOSIDE was a tall order 5th to Ascot at Cheltenham (2m, good to soft) last term. TACTICO was a winner over hurdles here (2m, good to soft) last term. TACTICO was a winner over hurdles here (2m, good to soft) last term.

**2.45 CARDONA HANDICAP HURDLE (21.31.8; 2m 81) (13 runners)**

1	111222	BLUFF KNOLL 14 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	M. D. Macgregor	54
2	111231	TACTICO 14 (D. Fairgrieve) 5-10-12	J. O'Donnell	54
3	111242	IMPAGNE 38 (D. Fairgrieve) 5-10-12	J. O'Donnell	54
4	111253	TASAR 14 (D. Fairgrieve) 5-10-12	A. Macgregor	54
5	111264	GROUND MASTER 14 (D. Fairgrieve) 5-10-12	M. D. Macgregor	54

BETTING: 5-2 Tactico, 7-2 Centre Attraction, 4-1 Impagne, 8-1 Tasar, 12-1 Ground Master.

**FORM** BLUFF KNOLL was a tall order 5th to Ascot at Cheltenham (2m, good to soft) last term. TACTICO was a winner over hurdles here (2m, good to soft) last term. TACTICO was a winner over hurdles here (2m, good to soft) last term.

**3.00 MISTLETOE NOVICES CHASE (Div I: £1,438; 2m 5f 110yds) (10 runners)**

1	00042-0	MISTLETOE 12 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	R. Dwyer	54
2	00043-0	CYGNETS BEET 30 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	R. Dwyer	54
3	00044-0	FLYING GEM 12 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	R. Dwyer	54
4	00045-0	FLYING GEM 12 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	R. Dwyer	54
5	00046-0	FLYING GEM 12 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	R. Dwyer	54

BETTING: 11-4 Battalion, 7-2 Celtic Barle, 4-1 Island Set, 7-1 Eastern Quarter, 10-1 Tactico, 14-1 Cayman, 18-1 others.

**3.30 CHRISTMAS PUDDING NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £880; 2m) (18 runners)**

1	00042-0	BATTALION 23 (R. Dwyer) 5-10-12	P. Scudamore	54
2	00043-0	CYGNETS BEET 30 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	R. Dwyer	54
3	00044-0	FLYING GEM 12 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	R. Dwyer	54
4	00045-0	FLYING GEM 12 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	R. Dwyer	54
5	00046-0	FLYING GEM 12 (Mrs J. Jones) 5-10-12	R. Dwyer	54

BETTING: 11-4 Battalion, 7-2 Celtic Barle, 4-1 Island Set, 7-1 Eastern Quarter, 10











# Sanchez does not say it with flowers

By Special Correspondent

Nottingham Forest ..... 0  
Wimbledon ..... 1

Lawrie Sanchez, who last May gave Wimbledon their greatest moment, yesterday struck a blow for the FA Cup holders' first division survival.

Sanchez, whose penchant for delivering decisive goals stretches beyond his Wembley winner, scored in the 75th minute of this match to give Wimbledon their fourth victory of the season and deprive Forest of an expected victory.

Forest, who have won only once at home this season — against Liverpool, no less — never looked likely to produce the football needed to turn their curious season into a championship challenge.

Their manager, Brian Clough, was looking forward to gifts of sweet peas from Wimbledon — evidently Bobby Gould used to take him some during his Bristol days. As one would expect, there was nothing flowery about Wimbledon's approach. With Forest struggling to find rhythm, it did not make for captivating viewing.

Apart from a sixth-minute drive by Parker that brought a spectacular save from Segers, the former Forest goalkeeper, there was more activity on the bench than on the field during the first 45 minutes. At least the gesticulations of Clough as he bellowed instructions to Chapman and Webb kept Forest's supporters remotely entertained.

The first half might have been even less appealing for them had a free kick by Wise not drifted wide of an upright. That was a rare piece of

invention, a quality not much in evidence within the Forest ranks, either. A frenetic attack of theirs at last created a moment of concern when Chapman curled a shot against the inside of a post.

By that time — after an hour — it had dawned on Wimbledon that with a little more ambition they could make Forest pay for their strangely insipid display.

Sutton had to be alert to save a header by Fashanu as a prelude to Sanchez's goal. Fashanu headed down Currie's cross and Sanchez had time and space to rifle a right-foot shot past Sutton from the edge of the box.

Forest sent on Hodge in place of Parker but the move came too late to inject flair into one of Forest's most ineffective performances of the season. It was a point not lost on Segers, who made a move to Wimbledon from Forest in October.

"Forest are such a difficult team to play against," he said. "We were surprised that we didn't see more from them. We managed to close them down very quickly to prevent them getting into a pattern and it worked well for us. The longer the game went, we fancied that we might get a goal."

Sanchez, reflecting on his first goal since the Wembley winner against Liverpool, added: "I don't get many but when they come they are usually important."

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: S. Sumner, C. Hogg, D. Wilson, C. Fotherby, P. Smith, S. Hodge, F. Carr, N. Webb, N. Brown, L. Croxall, S. Rice, W. Laidlaw, H. Segers, T. Friel, J. Wright, V. Jones, E. Young, K. Currie, P. Fashanu, T. Gibson, J. Fashanu, L. Sanchez, D. Wise.

Referee: R. Collins.

# Stoke hit for six by lively Albion

By Dennis Shaw

West Bromwich Albion ..... 6  
Stoke City ..... 0

The prospect of West Bromwich Albion gaining promotion this season takes on growing inevitability with every game. Since Brian Talbot became player manager in mid-October, Albion have taken 23 points from 11 games, their sixth successive home win arriving yesterday with a spectacular display of finishing power.

Stoke were three goals down by the time their midfield player, Ford, was sent off in the 67th minute for aiming a kick at Anderson after a tackle. In reply, Albion simply doubled their total.

The visitors were virtually seen off in the first 95 seconds. This was the time it took for Robson to nod firmly in at the far post after Whyte had headed on Anderson's corner. From then, Albion worked at boosting their goal difference. The second was driven straight through Fox's legs (32 mins) by Goodman, who later converted a Dobbins pass (84mins) for his seventh goal in the last three home games.

# Two goals keep a run going

Gillingham's leading scorer, Steve Lovell, got both his side's goals in the 2-1 win at Northampton yesterday. It was Gillingham's third successive away win, suggesting better times are on the way under Keith Burkinshaw.

Northampton took the lead in the 51st minute through Gilbert but Gillingham were level within three minutes and Lovell settled the issue with an 83rd minute penalty, his 13th goal of the season.

Aldershot's biggest crowd of the season was denied a goal against Brentford, mainly due to a brave performance from the visiting goalkeeper, Tony Parks.

The Notts County forward, Ian McParland, played his first game for two months and scored a 54th minute goal at Wigan which proved enough to win the game.

Police report that 22 spectators were arrested at Upton Park on Saturday following outbreaks of hooliganism at the game between West Ham United and Tottenham Hotspur. Thirteen people were arrested inside the ground and nine outside. Play was held up for two minutes in the second half as police attempted to bring under control fighting in an area of the ground known as the Old Chicken Run.

# Life ban

The Kenya Football Federation has banned for life Jack Johnson, the Danish coach of Kenya's top team, Gor Mahia, for assaulting a referee after his team had lost a match earlier this month.

# Humphrey bound for Newcastle

Jim Smith, the manager of Newcastle United, is expected to sign John Humphrey, the experienced Charlton Athletic defender (Ian Ross writes). Smith is likely to offer more than £300,000 for the right back.

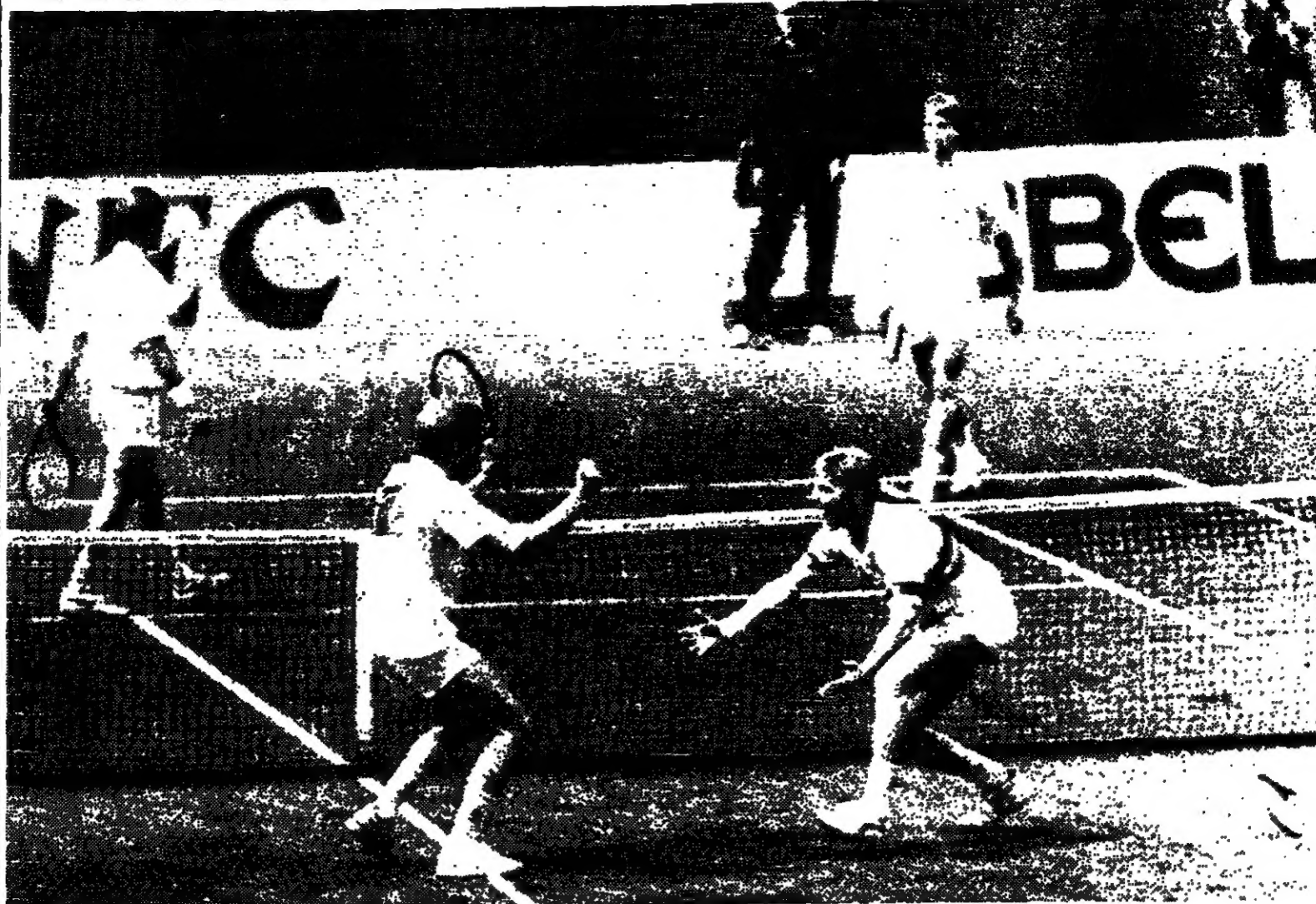
Howard Wilkinson, the manager of Leeds United, dismissed speculation that Justin Fashanu, the former Nottingham Forest and Norwich City forward, was to be offered the opportunity to resurrect his career at Elland Road.

Steve Bruce, the Manchester United defender, is expected to be a surprise witness at an FA inquiry at Lancaster Gate tomorrow when his teammate, Viv Anderson, and John Fashanu, of Wimbledon, face charges of bringing the game into disrepute (Dennis Signy writes).

Tommy Coakley, the Wallasey manager, emerged from a meeting with the chairman, Barrie Blower, to insist that he was still in charge at Fellows Park. A 2-1 defeat at Bournemouth was a record tenth in succession for the second division club.

Crystal Palace look set to sign Rudi Hedman, the Colchester midfielder player. Terms have been agreed with the club for an undisclosed fee.

# Proud Swedes suffer final humiliation



Moment of triumphant destiny: Jelen and Becker celebrate their hard-fought victory over Jarryd and Edberg

# Team jeered for injury forfeit

From Richard Evans  
Gothenburg

The proud image of Swedish tennis, already stunned by the loss of the Davis Cup to Boris Becker's West Germans, took another sad and unexpected battering yesterday.

To boos from Swedish and West German supporters, the Swedish team captain, Hans Olsson, forfeited the fifth rubber on the grounds that none of his four-man squad was fit enough to complete the final.

The Swedes could point to the fact that Boris Becker had also withdrawn from the fifth match, with a shoulder strain, leaving Patrick Kuhnen to play the dead rubber. But there is a world of difference between what winners and losers can get away with.

Olsson, a pleasant, fatherly figure who does not appear strong enough to exert discipline over a group of mil-

lionaires, was loudly booed when he made the announcement on court in front of a large crowd here at the Scandinavium — a bitter ending to what had begun just 48 hours before as yet another prospective triumph for Sweden's seemingly invincible Davis Cup team.

Anders Jarryd was suffering from the shoulder injury which had been plaguing him for months — and which had affected his performance with Stefan Edberg in the surprise doubles defeat by Becker and Eric Jelen on Saturday night — Mats Wilander was still worried by shin splints, and Kent Carlsson also declared himself unfit (which raised the question of what he was doing in the squad in the first place).

The fans had been expecting to watch Wilander take on Becker in the closing match of the final. Instead, they were told that they would see

Kuhnen play an exhibition against Mikael Pernfors — not even a member of the Swedish Davis Cup team.

"I understand your disappointment but you shouldn't boo," Olsson told the spectators. "Nothing is so important that it is worth risking the health of our boys."

Wilander has decided to take his doctor's advice and have two weeks' total rest in preparation for the defence of his Australian open title.

Olsson, who has led Sweden to three Davis Cup wins since 1984, denied suggestions that Sweden, who had not lost a cup match at home since 1981, were bad losers. "The fact that doctors have advised three of our team not to play does not make us bad losers," he said.

"I could have forced one of the players to go out here, but I didn't think it would be very wise. I promise you that we

will come back strongly next year."

Edberg salvaged a little pride for the deposed cupholders when he defeated Carl-Uwe Steeb in the fourth rubber to leave West Germany with a 4-1 margin and the trophy in their possession for the first time.

Steeb, who had battled back from two sets down to beat Wilander, the world No. 1 in the opening rubber on Friday, fought to the end, saving five match points before Edberg won 6-4 8-6.

In West Germany yesterday, the newspaper headlines included "We are the kings of tennis" in *Bild am Sonntag*, backed up by four full pages on the victory.

*Die Welt am Sonntag* greeted the victory as confirmation and culmination of West Germany's spectacular rise as a world tennis power.

Germany's triumph, page 28

# Chatrier agrees to tour

From Richard Evans

The tennis war is over. Philippe Chatrier, president of the International Tennis Federation, gave his blessing to the new tour that the Association of Tennis Professionals will run in 1990 in surprisingly effusive terms here yesterday.

After all the talk of a rival ITF circuit and hints of restrictions on qualifying for Wimbledon and the other Grand Slam championships, Chatrier has accepted the decision of the world's tournament directors and seems determined to make the best of what he, privately, still considers to be a bad job.

"The tournaments decided to let the ATP have a go at running the tour in 1990 and why not?" Chatrier said. "The players are our family and, contrary to what you might hear, I have always been a players' man. They feel they are capable of running the circuit and good luck to them. I mean that sincerely. I hope that they will make it work because tennis doesn't need the bad image that another dispute would bring."

That unexpected reaction will be welcomed by the players. The ITF will continue to have total control of the Davis Cup and the Olympics and share in the running of the Grand Slam tournaments and will, be there to help should the ATP find it has overburdened itself in 1990 when it intends to run a circuit of more than 50 tournaments.

# Madec has a record crossing

By Barry Pickthall

Serge Madec, a 32-year-old Frenchman, was yesterday celebrating one of the most amazing feats in yachting — a transatlantic record of 12 days 12 hours 30 minutes (including six hours lost for repairs).

Madec had followed the route taken by Christopher Columbus from Cadiz in southern Spain to what is now San Salvador in the Caribbean. He and his six-man crew, sailing the 75ft catamaran *Jet Services*, improved the record by almost nine hours — and they were 57 days faster than Columbus five centuries earlier. The performance capped a remarkable year which has seen them race across the Atlantic to record the best times both from New York to the Lizard and from Quebec to St. Malo.

Madec's time for this latest triumph over 3,185 miles could have been even better had his multihull not been rammed by a spectator boat at the start of the Route of Discovery Race off Cadiz. The repairs cost him and his crew six hours in port but they not only took the record, they also won £20,000 in prize-money.

Madec, who hails from Brittany and is married with a young son, gave up medical studies to follow a career at sea. He began, like most of the famous French ocean racers, as a sailing instructor, and he joined the *Jet Services* team seven years ago.

His first success came in 1984 as a crewman with Patrick Morvan; they smashed the east-west record from New York to the Lizard. Their 60ft catamaran was wrecked a month later when it hit a tree-trunk in mid-Atlantic when Morvan was chasing the single-handed record.



Madec's remarkable year from Plymouth to Newport, Rhode Island. Undaunted, their sponsor, a French air-courier company, immediately commissioned a bigger, faster craft — *Jet Services V*.

The dangers of racing these fast but fragile multihulls into the worst of Atlantic tempests was brought home in 1987, when *Jet Services'* new skipper, Daniel Gilard (who had taken the boat to victory in the Round Europe event), was lost overboard during the two-handed race from La Rade to Dakar. Gilard's place was taken by Madec, and the boat and skipper have never looked back.

Setting out from New York at the end of May after a two-week wait for strong following winds, Madec and his crew arrived off the Lizard seven days six hours and 30 minutes later — an average of 16.76 knots.

In August, Madec and his team won the fully-crewed race from Quebec to St. Malo, completing the distance in seven days 21 hours 35 minutes. They were more than 1,000 miles ahead of their nearest rivals.

The Santa Maria, the flagship which carried Columbus with 40 crew across the Atlantic in 1492, was just two feet longer than *Jet Services*. There the similarity ends, apart from the cramped conditions. Columbus' boat weighed some 202 tons against *Jet Services'* nine tons, and he took 69 days 22 hours to sight San Salvador, an average of 1.9 knots; Madec completed the journey at what for him was a leisurely pace of 10.6 knots.

Merit, the Swiss maxi yacht skippered by Pierre Fehlmann, last night continued to head the separate monohull division in the Route of Discovery. He was 294 miles ahead of the Spanish entry *Fortuna* with *Gatormed*, of Italy, a further 18 miles astern.

Britain's two entries, *Maiden Great Britain* and *With Integrity*, hold tenth and eleventh positions, 450 miles behind *Merx*, which is now within 500 miles of the finish line off Santo Domingo.

# Richards returns to treatment room

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Dean Richards, the England No. 8, suffered a recurrence on Saturday of the shoulder-injury which has kept him out of rugby for a month. He played throughout the divisional game, at Inver Court, between the Midlands and London, the eventual winners, in pain and further jarred the limb in the final moments attempting to tackle Smith, the London wing.

"I'll give it a couple of weeks and get some treatment in Leicester and see how it goes," Richards said yesterday.

Saturday's game was his first since the initial injury on November 19 and it is pos-

sible he will miss Leicester's annual match against the Barbarians on December 28, though the national selectors will be more concerned that he should be fit to go to Portugal on January 9 with the England training party which will be announced today.

"The shoulder went when I was preparing to pack down for the first scrum of the game," Richards said.

Given the intensely physical nature of Richards's game, he did well to complete the match, in which London's 27-6 victory brought them the divisional championship on points difference from the North.

# Whitaker clears £20,000

John Whitaker and Next Gammon won the £10,000 first prize in the Grenoble grand prix yesterday but just missed winning a £20,000 Cherokee Jeep awarded to the rider gaining the most points in a five-show series for which Grenoble was the last show. The vehicle went to Thomas Fuchs, of Switzerland.

Whitaker picked up a further £10,000 for finishing second in the league. He returns to the Olympia show today to jump in the Crosse and Blackwell grand prix worth £5,500 to the winner.

RESULTS: Grenoble Grand Prix 1, Next Gammon (J. Whitaker, GB), 9 in 46.5 sec; 2, Morgan (H. Borch, FR), 4 in 54.7 sec; 3, Danner (T. Fuchs, SW), 8 in 35.0 sec.

# Second chance for charity runners

By David Powell

For the third successive year, *The Times* and Tandem Computers are offering 12 places in the London Marathon for runners with worthwhile causes to support.

Some 30,000 applicants, for whom places could not be found in the world's biggest marathon on April 23, will have received their letters of rejection in recent days. Today's announcement offers them another chance to be on the start line.

We are looking for fund-raisers who have a particular cause at heart and who are not among the 31,000 — compared with 29,000 in the last London Marathon — assured of their places.

In conjunction with Tandem Computers, who provide the complete computing facilities for the build-up, running and results of the race, we have secured 12 places on the start line. These will go to the people who convince the judges that their causes are the most worthy of *The Times/Tandem Computers Marathon Appeal*.

The marathon has a new sponsor, ADT, who are keen to see the fund-raising side of the event maintained, as well as providing an attractive elite race.

We welcome applications from runners supporting not only national and local charities but local projects and individual adventures too. All will be considered. Our aim is to provide the opportunity for 12 of them to use this appeal to attract sponsorship.

Tandem are offering prizes of £250, £150 and £100 in sports shop vouchers, or contributions to their causes, to the three biggest fund-

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COMPUTERS  
Marathon Appeal

runners from our 12. Each member of the squad will receive a memento.

All you have to do is explain, in no more than 200 words, why you and the campaign you support deserve one of the *The Times/Tandem Computers* places in the ADT London Marathon. Your letter must also note the full address of your chosen charity, or other beneficiary of your effort, your name, address and daytime telephone number, date of birth, experience of distance running and your willingness to run.

Letters should be sent to *The Times/Tandem Computers Marathon Appeal*, Sports Department, *The Times*, Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, to arrive not later than January 11. Entries will be examined by a panel of judges, including Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent of *The Times*, and Mike Lambert, marketing director of Tandem Computers UK.

From the entries they will select a short-list of people who will be checked for their suitability to run 26 miles 385 yards and the authenticity of their chosen campaign. When the short-list has been examined, we will publish the names of the 12 winners and their causes. Each will be featured in *The Times*. The judges' decision is final.

# Staying at Somerset

Neil Burns, the talented 23-year-old wicketkeeper recently linked with both Essex and Surrey, has decided to stay with Somerset. Burns was unsettled by the departures last summer of Martin Crowe and Brian Rose, the coach, and he at first rejected the county's offer of a new three-year contract.

Essex and Surrey were interested in Burns, but Somerset will today announce he has signed a four-year deal.

# Rugby tour

Toulouse (AFP) — New Zealand will play two internationals in a six-match rugby league tour of France at the end of next year. The tour is from November 20 to December 10.



Damiani: unbeaten

# On course

Sassari, Italy (AFP) — Francesco Damiani, the unbeaten Italian heavyweight boxer, kept his world title hopes alive here on Saturday when he retained his European crown with an easy third round knock-out win over Manfred Jassmann, of West Germany. Damiani stretched his record to 23 wins.

# Injury blow

Toulouse (AFP) — Thierry Devergie, France's new international rugby union forward, is feared to have fractured his jaw when he collided with an opponent during Nimes' 14-9 French championship defeat at Bagnac yesterday.

Cambridge win  
Cambridge University's modern pentathlon club defeated Oxford University and the French Ecole Polytechnique in Paris.

# Ski reports

*The Times* tomorrow begins its daily service of snow and conditions reports by the Ski Club of Great Britain from the leading resorts in Europe. In addition, we will be featuring reports from the tourist boards of France, Switzerland, Austria, West Germany, Italy, Spain and Yugoslavia.